

Stormy weather: 2005 Reviewed

By CHERYL DEVAL

A year is an arbitrary measuring stick. Life and its attendant catastrophes don't always heed the calendar. But any one of 2005's major events might have provided *the* defining moment of almost any other year:

- An unprecedented hurricane season, dominated in this country by Katrina and Rita, and the shocking convergence of inaction, ineptitude and insensitivity that risked and ended the lives of too many storm victims. Three months after the event, those same factors and a lack of political will may doom a major American city and a unique repository of black culture, New Orleans.
- An escalating American-led war in Iraq that's killed more than 2,000 American military and, by the president's off-the-cuff calculation, at least 30,000 Iraqis.
- Two vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court and the death of a Roman Catholic pope.
- Mass killing, rape and displacement in the Darfur region of Sudan, exacerbated by the West's unwillingness to respond to it as genocide.



Wilson



Motley



Davis

- The passing of African-American cultural and political giants – publisher John H. Johnson, civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks, Pulitzer-winning playwright August Wilson, actor and activist Ossie Davis, suave balladeer Luther Vandross, Congresswoman and presidential candidate Shirley Chisholm, attorney and jurist Constance Baker Motley and the incomparable comic genius Richard Pryor [more on him in Wayne Dawkins' commentary, page 2].

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People: Building a better blog; commentary winner

SeeingBlack.com has received \$2,500 from the Washington, D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, said founder Esther Iverem, '83, "to help us switch to a blog-type software that will allow us to update the site more often without costly technical assistance." Iverem wants to raise \$5,000 more for this effort. "We need 200 readers – representing less than 1 percent of the 100,000 monthly impressions we receive – to donate. If you can give more, please give for someone who cannot." Visit www.seeingblack.com/donate.shtml ... Lawrence Aaron, '70, of the Bergen Record in New Jersey won a first place award for commentary from Garden State ABJ. Recognized were articles on Capt. James Yee, a N.J. man of Chinese descent. Authorities charged him with conspiring against the United States with the Guantanamo detainees he counseled as an Islamic chaplain. Read Aaron at www.northjersey.com

Richard Pryor's lasting influence on American humor

An alleged 19th birthday gift is my most powerful memory of Richard Pryor, 65, who died Dec. 10. In 1974, my brother gave me an eight-track tape of "That Nigger's Crazy," the comic's profane, obscene, and yes, brilliant collection of stand-ups.

I rarely heard that tape. Keith and his best bud Monk would "borrow" the tape in order to memorize all the jokes, including the profane opening about the black man with a death wish, another about hearing the voice of God during the Depression while the comic was walking down a street and chomping on a tuna fish "samich," and an introduction to a character named Mudbone.



I did not protest much about Keith and Monk taking my tape. They couldn't get enough of Pryor, who in the 1970s and '80s blew up into an entertainment superstar. Three decades later the comedian was lionized as a major social icon. Pryor died the same day as former U.S. Sen. Eugene McCarthy, 89, the man who shook up the 1968 presidential election by having the nerve to challenge a sitting president in order to protest the Vietnam War. McCarthy's challenge to Lyndon Johnson drew enough young voters to convince LBJ to surrender. Despite a landslide victory in 1964, incumbent Johnson in '68 grimly said "I will not seek, or accept the nomination for president of the United States."

Wayne Dawkins/Commentary

That year spiraled into madness. Robert F. Kennedy jumped into the presidential race, and then was assassinated in June. McCarthy's insurgency seemed to weaken a fellow Minnesota Democrat, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who made the presidential run in LBJ's place. Humphrey lost a close election to Republican Richard Nixon.

Yeah, McCarthy shook up the nation 37 years ago, but today his impact did not have the same punch as Pryor's, at least in many news editors' and news directors' minds. Network TV and NPR tried to play the Pryor and McCarthy stories equally Saturday evening, but by Sunday morning, most daily newspapers I read or scanned put Pryor on the front page and McCarthy inside.

Pryor's gift? "He drew his humor straight from the lives and of working-class black Americans in an overt, unapologetic way never before seen," wrote Matt Schudel in The Washington Post. "In so doing, he helped bring black customs and language into the mainstream and exerted a lasting influence on American humor and cultural life."

That explains why Pryor in 1998 won the Mark Twain prize. Like Samuel Clemens', Pryor's satire was fearless and unapologetic.

My favorite Pryor movies include "Uptown Saturday Night" [1974], in which he played the con man who swindled Bill Cosby and Sidney Poitier's working class characters. "Why would you rip off a brother?" one of the wronged men asked the con. "Why not you, brotha?" Pryor's character's retorted, complete with a raised eyebrow and bug-eyed indignity.

Pryor's character in "Bingo Long's Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings," [1976] was reliably nervy: Big league baseball at that time barred blacks, yet Pryor's unambiguously black character tried to sneak in anyway – as a Cuban.

I ran out to the video store and rented "Some Kind of Hero" [1982]. Of three mugs of Pryor roles in 40-plus movies, the Washington Post account in my local paper had an image of Pryor in uniform in the role of a Vietnam veteran. I was intrigued.

Continued on page 4

Stormy weather: 2005 reviewed/ Continued

Media circus

A prolonged season of gloom for the news industry included but was not limited to major ethical breaches by the New York Times and its former correspondent Judith Miller, whose 12 weeks in jail were eclipsed by her reluctance to come clean about the degree to which she placed the interests of her White House sources over the public trust. [Miller had learned about, but hadn't published, the name of a CIA undercover agent who happened to be married to an outspoken critic of the Bush Administration's Iraq policy. Columnist Robert Novak, who did leak the name of Valerie Plame, never spent a day in jail; in December he signed on as an occasional commentator for Fox News.]

Late in the year the New York Times also reported, on the same day, that the White House authorized the National Security Agency to monitor the phone calls and e-mail of American citizens without court approval following the Sept. 11 attacks – and that the paper waited a year before publishing this information.

At the Times and other newspapers and magazines from Boston to Los Angeles, profitable media companies eliminated hundreds of newsroom jobs – sometimes as a result of falsely inflating circulation figures.

Broadcast news continued to emphasize entertainment over substance – note CBS News' courting of Katie Couric as a potential evening anchor and the post-Ted Koppel refashioning of ABC News' "Nightline." Within months after NBC's Tom Brokaw signed off for the last time, all three of the old-line anchors were off the air. Dan Rather stepped down amid fallout from his network's flawed investigation of President Bush's Texas National Guard service, and Peter Jennings died of lung cancer.

Even news-driven public radio, accustomed to steady audience growth, hit a plateau as new technologies like satellite radio and the I-Pod caught on.

Public confidence in traditional journalism continued to slide as ideology-driven commentators in print, broadcast and the blogosphere harped on every mainstream media transgression, from Newsweek's stumble on the Koran-down-the-toilet report to Detroit sportswriter Mitch Albom's placing players at a game they didn't attend to the admission of columnists Armstrong Williams and Doug Bandow that they accepted payoffs to promote certain points of view.

Compassion fatigue?

It's all enough to make one weary. Perhaps readers, viewers and listeners just got tired of all the bad news and turned their attention elsewhere. Charitable organizations reported that "compassion fatigue" may have set in after 2004's year-end tsunami in South Asia and the continuing plight of displaced Katrina victims diverted attention and money from other crises. Pakistan's president Pervez Musharraf even called the West on its sluggishness to help victims of October's earthquake in his country; he charged that the international aid response would have been swifter and more generous if the quake had endangered wealthy tourists instead of poor people.

In the United States, Katrina forced the press to recall that the poor are always with us, even if we haven't always noticed. The New York Times' public editor surveyed his paper's coverage of New Orleans in the decade before Katrina and found it dominated by style, travel and food features, with little emphasis on the inadequacy of the levees, the sorry state of the public schools or the persistent poverty that limited the prospects of too many Crescent City residents.

When the storm and the subsequent flooding forced out-of-town reporters from newspapers, radio and cable news to pay attention, their truth-telling and outrage forced the federal government to act – for a few weeks, anyway – by removing FEMA director Michael "you're doing a heckuva job, Brownie" Brown and scheduling frequent, if belated, presidential trips to the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast.

It's less clear whether the news media's vigilance will have a lasting effect on the national response to Katrina. Some national news outlets have helped keep the story from fading away.

New Orleans' hometown newspaper, the Times-Picayune, and the Biloxi Sun-Herald in Mississippi have told the story and lived it. Many of their own employees lost homes, possessions and loved ones in the disaster. Knight-Ridder's fund for Sun-Herald employees officially closed Nov. 15 after generating \$640,000 [see "Biloxi blues," October BA Newsletter]. Friends of the Times-Picayune is still accepting non-tax deductible contributions at www.friendsofthetimespicayune.com.

Cheryl Devall, J-82, is a free-lance public radio editor living in Los Angeles. She was part of a team that won a 2006 du Pont-Columbia University Broadcast News Award for "North Carolina Voices: Understanding Poverty," by North Carolina Public Radio, WUNC. The awards ceremony is Jan. 18 in New York.

Richard Pryor/Continued

I read that Pryor was a co-writer of "Blazing Saddles." So, there was a reason I laughed so hard at the gags. And Pryor did not have to be profane and obscene to be outrageously funny. If so, how could he have starred in "The Muppet Movie"? [1979]

My friend Jeff in New Jersey recalled another dose of refreshingly clean comedy: "People are remembering many things about Pryor, some of them bitter, some of them sweet, all of them powerful and poignant – and all true.

"There's something I recall though that I doubt anyone will bring up. When Richard Pryor first hit the scene, he did so on the "Merv Griffin Show." Pryor did a routine in which he was a high school kid who was going to get up on stage in front of the entire school and lift a heavy barbell – 500 pounds or something.

"I was a teenager when I saw this, but I recall it was the first time I saw or heard of Pryor. He had me rolling on the floor that day, playing the part of a skinny high school kid trying to look good in front of his peers and teachers.

"Pryor was funny and also very telling. He understood, exquisitely, the burning need of kids to fit in, accomplish something and look good in front of others. He just plain got it." Richard Pryor's humor and satire explains why my sibling and friend hoarded that so-called gift; they couldn't get enough of the comic.

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Scholarship fund drive halfway home

Cash contributions up 65 percent since September;
\$100,000 will establish a BA Network endowment

By WAYNE DAWKINS

The drive toward establishing an endowed Black Alumni Network scholarship at Columbia University J-school increased substantially last fall. The fund now has \$54,000 in cash and pledges, which means we are halfway to the \$100,000 goal.

Amanda Wilson of the J-school alumni and development office delivered the good news early last month. Wilson said cash on hand was \$23,000 – up from \$15,000 in September – and \$31,000 in pledges made up the rest. In the final days of 2005, the fund received gifts from Rita Thompson, '80, of Chicago and Karen Turner, '85, of New Jersey.

Fellow alums, keep on giving so we can reach our goal. [See **PEOPLE**, page 3]

If you've pledged, fulfill your commitment and accept our grateful thanks in advance.

If you are about to join in, within the next five years, will you agree to make a gift totaling \$25,000 [\$5,000/year]; \$15,000 [\$3,000/year]; \$10,000 [\$2,000/year]; \$5,000 [\$1,000/year] or \$1,000 [\$200/year]? Payment options: Personal check [payable to "Trustees of Columbia University"], or credit card, Visa/Mastercard/American Express/Discover.

Return forms to Amanda Wilson, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, 2950 Broadway, 7th floor, New York, NY 10027. E-mail, aw2186@columbia.edu

Read previous stories about scholarship drive developments [November, September 2005]. Visit www.jrn.columbia.edu and go to alumni links and "Black Alumni Network."

Paralyzed '77 alumna struggles to heal in upstate N.Y.

Poet, writer and artist Akua Lezli Hope, '77, was paralyzed on Nov. 14 and hospitalized for weeks at Strong Memorial in Rochester. Hope was diagnosed with idiopathic transverse myelitis – a neurological syndrome caused by inflammation of the spinal cord – said Dawoud Bey and Ken Smikle in a message to friends last month. Hope had moved to Rochester to take the position as director of marketing and development at the Writers & Books Literary Center.



She can be reached by e-mail at akua@artfarm.com. To view Akua Lezli Hope's art, visit www.artfarm.com/akualezlihope.html. "I am so grateful for the outpouring of support," said Hope, who is now undergoing physical therapy.

Greatness despite stumbles on the way to Canaan's edge

I was a seventh grader five months shy of my 13th birthday when Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "Mountaintop" speech in Memphis, Tenn. My eyes still sting with tears, every time I hear that audio from April 1968.

I watched King's speech that night on the evening news. His dark face shone, probably from the glaring TV lights. Although it was early spring, what I watched looked like a humid July evening.



My adolescent ears heard a man predicting his death: "I'm not afraid of any man ... I've been to the mountaintop and I've seen the promised land ... I may not get there with you, but we'll get to the promised land!" A

few days later, King was gone, shot to death on the balcony of his motel room. **Wayne Hawkins/Commentary**

The Miles Davis quintet's album "Nefertiti," especially the compositions "Madness" and "Riot" became my personal soundtrack for a moment in history that included King's murder, then Robert Kennedy's assassination in June, chaos at Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August, and the rising a daily body count from the Vietnam War.

These '60s memories are vivid now because of the buzz about "At Canaan's Edge," the finale of Taylor Branch's trilogy on King and the civil rights movement. Branch's book describes King under siege: Mayor Daley outmaneuvers him in Chicago and turns President Johnson against the civil rights leader when King publicly criticizes the war. The FBI's J. Edgar Hoover hounds King with surveillance and fails to protect his safety. Young challengers like Stokely Carmichael scoff the elder's commitment to non-violent confrontation.

"Canaan's Edge" does not show King triumphantly, yet the book is a reminder why he

was so courageous, so visionary, and so great. I was moved after reading Jonathan Alter's Newsweek essay about Branch's book. Alter met King when he was a schoolboy because the civil rights leader spoke at a fund-raiser at Alter's house during that Chicago campaign. An Ohio State University history professor wrote a sharp critique of "Canaan's Edge" for the Chicago Tribune that was reprinted in my local Virginia newspaper. And when I stopped by to chat with Hampton University colleague Jack White, a copy of Time magazine was on his desk. I flipped through it and read an excerpt from Branch's book.

Now that it's Black History season I hope presenters will reach even deeper to explain the rich lives of familiar figures like King, and expose audiences to the many lesser-known movement visionaries and foot soldiers deserving wider recognition.

The Friday after the MLK holiday, three colleagues and I went out for drinks. We were unexpectedly treated to some good jazz. The night felt so special, the next day I dug in my closet to look up a name in Joachim-Ernst Berendt's "Jazz: A Photo History."

I met Martin Luther King again: "Much of the power of our freedom movement in the United States," he said at the 1964 Berlin Jazz Festival, "has come from this music. It has strengthened us with its powerful rhythms when courage began to fail. It has calmed us with its rich harmonies when spirits were down.

"And now, jazz is exported to the world. For in the particular struggle of the Negro in America, there is something akin to the universal struggle of modern man. Everybody has the blues. Everybody longs for meaning. Everybody needs to love and be loved. Everybody needs to clap hands and be happy. Everybody longs for faith. In music, especially that broad category called jazz, there is a stepping stone toward all of these."

Words that make my eyes sting. Just like that immortal mountaintop speech.

People

A'Leia Bundles, '76, said she is leaving ABC News this month to take on a number of projects: "Work full-time on my next book, a biography of A'Leia Walker and her life and parties during the Harlem Renaissance; do more public speaking for income, focus on our Columbia Black Alumni Network fund-raising project [see page 1]; devote more time to some boards I enjoy but have neglected, and watch over the remodeling of our house." Bundles, great-great granddaughter of self-made millionaire Madam C.J. Walker, authored the biography "On Her Own Ground." Bundles also leads the NABJ Author's Showcase, which will



be in Indianapolis in August. ... CWB is "Coping while black," wrote Bergen Record columnist **Lawrence Aaron, '70**, in the Winter 2005-06 NABJ Journal. Aaron's commentary was part of "Covering Katrina: An NABJ Special Report." Visit www.nabj.org ... **Sheila Stainback, '01**, is a month into her job as press secretary for New York City's Administration for Children's Services. Also, "A Love Like No Other" was written up in the Jan. 19 USA Today. "I'm one of 20 adoptive parents," said the longtime broadcast journalist, "who contributed to this book about 'real deal' adoptive stories."

Visit www.usatoday.com/news/health/2006-01-18-adoption-book_x.htm

Keith Rushing, '90, reported in late December on some of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan who settled in Virginia but were about to return to their native land. ... When Sgt. Clarence Javon Floyd, father of **Betty Baye's** nephew, was killed in Iraq at the end of 2005, the war became painful and personal. Baye, '80, grieved in her NPR "News & Notes with Ed Gordon" commentary. Visit www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060105/COLUMNISTS09/601050359/1021

Jobline

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel is seeking an aggressive, experienced **metro editor** with exceptional leadership skills to head a large editorial team in Palm Beach County. This department head will direct coverage of breaking news and cutting-edge enterprise reporting in an intensely competitive market. News judgment and communications and coordination skills must be strong. Teamwork is essential. Applicants should submit a resume, vision statement and samples of work that demonstrate the skills they would bring to the job to Kathy Pellegrino, recruitment editor, Sun-Sentinel, 200 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. The Sun-Sentinel also seeks a **news design director** and a **public safety reporter**. Apply to Pellegrino.

Openings at CBS operations: **Video editor** in Pittsburgh; **news producer** in Denver; **associate producers** in Salt Lake City [entry level opportunities in a top 40-market]; **videographer** in Miami; Contact Bob Butler, diversity director, CBS Television Stations/CBS Radio, 415-951-2333. E-mail: bbutler@cbs.com

Vernon Jarrett Awards deadline nears

The Vernon Jarrett Medal for Journalistic Excellence awards program seeks entries. The medal was created by the Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in honor of Vernon Jarrett, a distinguished newspaper columnist who died in 2004. The Vernon Jarrett Medal is awarded annually by the Institute for outstanding coverage of people of African descent and the issues that affect their lives. The award is intended to promote greater diversity in the coverage of domestic and foreign news by media organizations in the United States. **Feb. 24 is the application deadline.** Submit a completed application addressed to: Vernon Jarrett Medal Awards' Committee Chair, 125 Crosby Hall, NC A&T State University, Greensboro, N.C. 27411. Additional information on the institute can be found at www.ifajs.org. Entries must have been published or aired during the 2005 calendar year. No more than three (3) submissions are allowed per category from a single media organization.

The **Black Alumni Network** of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism was founded in May 1980 and since July the group has published a monthly newsletter.

The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. We publish job changes and moves, news about books and films published or produced by alumni, and family milestones. And of course we keep alumni connected to news from the Columbia GSJ. Log on to our Web site at

www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/services/ban/ or see our link on the home page of www.blackjournalist.com

Wayne J. Dawkins – editor,

Betty Winston Baye, Angela Chatman, Cheryl Devall,

Dan Holly, Keith Rushing, contributing editors

E-mail tips, comments, suggestions to wdawk69643@aol.com

Call 800-268-4338

Calendar

March 13, Washington, D.C. alumni reception at the National Press Club.

Visit www.jrn.columbia.edu to RSVP.

Friday, April 21, Columbia Journalism Alumni Association spring meeting.

Awards program and showcase event of the alumni weekend for classes including 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986 and 1981.

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Civil Rights' first lady, 2

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1972 J-school grad was homeless in NYC

Sam W. Averiett, a 1972 Columbia University Journalism graduate, was among four blacks to desegregate a Birmingham, Ala. high school in the late 1960s. According to a Feb. 10 obituary in the *Daily Home* newspaper of Talladega, Ala., Averiett, 56, earned a doctorate from Harvard.

Yet many people learned about Averiett this way: He died homeless in New York City, reported *The New York Times* Feb. 19, and Averiett's living arrangement was well known for years to neighbors on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Michael Dutton, a classmate who now lives in Washington, D.C., remembered Averiett this way: "The last time I saw him was in Grand Central Station around 1980, lugging a suitcase and laughing. I tried to talk to him, but he was in another world. It broke my heart to know that he would not talk.

"I saw him a couple of other times in Central Park in the early '80s. He still wouldn't talk. He looked clean and he had a handsome piece of leather luggage with a wide leather strap around it.

"I think the last time I saw him, I approached him and gave him some money. He accepted it without a word exchanged."

'It broke my heart to know that he would not talk.'

Ellen Pall's *New York Times* account said Sam Willie Averiett died from a heart attack. He slept on a rocky outcropping in Riverside Park and was well known to neighbors in the vicinity of West 82nd Street.

A neighbor recalled years ago handing Averiett a poorly written article for an archeology journal after learning he was a J-school graduate. Averiett returned the piece edited with proofreader's marks. He was also known to buy a newspaper at an 83rd Street newsstand and read it cover to cover.

Dutton said he recalled Averiett going to a national magazine after graduation, but after that, Averiett's career remains a mystery. Averiett's deceased Columbia J-school classmates include Stephen Gayle, 34, who had just become managing editor of *Black Enterprise* when he died in 1982, and Meredith Lewis, 49, of the *Christian Science Monitor*, who died in 1993. — *Wayne Dawkins*

Columbia Graduate School of Journalism Alumni Assn. Spring Career Panel **Thinking Outside the Box: Job-hunting In Troubled Times**

Tuesday, March 21

Third Floor Lecture Hall, Columbia J-School, 116th Street and Broadway, New York, N.Y.

Moderator

Amy Resnick J'90, editor-in-chief, *The Bond Buyer*

Panelists:

Jeff Benkoe, filing editor, Reuters News; **Diane Goldie**, editorial director, *am NY*; **Betty Holcomb J'76**, policy director and newsletter editor, *Child Care Inc.*; **Sheryl Huggins J'91**, editor-in-chief, *NiaOnline*.

Refreshments: 6:30 p.m.

Program: 7 p.m.

RSVP: 212-854-3864



Coretta Scott King [1927-2006]

Three months after the “mother of the civil rights movement” [Rosa Parks, 92] died, the “first lady” departed, too. The wife of Martin Luther King Jr. died Jan. 30 at age 78 after battling a stroke and ovarian cancer. Here are excerpts of appreciations from two Columbia J-school alumni who are op-ed columnists.

MLK Jr. met his match

Alabama-born Coretta Scott was the daughter of proud, land-owning black folks. Yes, she picked cotton and did domestic work in white folks' homes, as did many of her generation. But she was able to go to college, first to Antioch in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and then to the New England Conservatory of Music.

She met Martin King Jr. in Boston, and, to be sure, he was a catch, coming from one of Atlanta's most prominent black families and being heir apparent to the pulpit of the prestigious Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Yet, Coretta Scott made him wait six months before accepting his proposal. Perhaps the fact that she wasn't desperate was a big attraction for the cocky young King.

He'd met his match: a good-looking woman, two years his elder and, no doubt as he figured, qualified to hold her own as “First Lady” to black congregations that would judge him as much by his choice in a woman as by his preaching. [PHOTO: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel www.jsonline.com]

Martin and Coretta Scott King enjoyed a 15-year union that ended with his assassination in 1968.

In a recent interview, she said that she didn't marry just the man, but also the cause. And despite having four young children, Coretta Scott King often was at her man's side on the battlefield.

Think about it: Any bullet meant for him easily could have hit her.

– **Betty Winston Baye, '80, The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.**

Not just a wife in the background

THE DEATH of Coretta Scott King, the first lady of the civil rights movement, signals the end of an era.

Unlike people of my generation and younger, Coretta was committed to the civic life. Too many of us are committed to our careers and maybe on occasion we will write a check for a good cause. March? Sign a petition? Speak out? That's too much by our reckoning. We need to be more involved.

Coretta was more than just the widow of Martin Luther King Jr. But as Andrew Young noted in his autobiography, “An Easy Burden,” soon after Martin's assassination in 1968, men from his organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, challenged her role. They were nothing if not sexist in those days.

Continued on next page

Coretta Scott King/Continued

"She had always seen herself as a civil rights leader, not just as a wife in the background," Young wrote. "Coretta had come into her own when she began representing Martin at rallies and demonstrations against the war in Vietnam."

It was lost on many of those self-important SCLC men that Coretta was an activist before she married, and had lived through the harsh reality of segregation. She was a student delegate to the 1948 Democratic presidential convention. "I had a strong and deep commitment to the struggle," she often said.

After Martin died she continued to work on important causes – marching against the war in Vietnam, fighting for Haitian refugees, opposing apartheid in South Africa, supporting gay rights.

– **E.R. Shipp, '78, *New York Daily News*.**

People

Maynard Eaton, '72, let us know that after some 25 years as an Emmy-award winning television reporter for WXIA-TV and political columnist for the *Atlanta Voice* newspaper, he was named press secretary for Georgia's Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor of Georgia. Also check out www.newsmakersatl.com



Charles E. Simmons, '70, [photo] chairman of the Eastern Michigan University journalism program, took "African Americans and the struggle for human rights," his traveling exhibition and collection, on the road to Wayne State University in Detroit from Feb. 15-28.

Anthony Chapelle, '84, is senior editor with On Wall Street Magazine www.onwallstreet.com "Now I'm another one of those mid-management level brothers I used to see at every publication," he said. "Happy, but no longer trying to conquer the world – or the industry."

Jobline

The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk is currently seeking to fill the following newsroom positions: **Reporter/Chesapeake News Team; photographer; sports copy editor/layout editor, and business reporter/defense & technology.** The first two jobs are posted on the jobs site, www.TheVirginianPilot.com/careers, and also at journalismjobs.com and journalismnext.com. All resumes are accepted online ONLY. If you're interested in any of these positions check the job sites. ... *The Telegraph* of Nashua, N.H. has an immediate opening for a full-time **sports copy editor.** Candidates should have design experience – preferably a working knowledge of Quark – and strong editing skills. Experience in online journalism is a plus. This person will produce weekly pages devoted to youth and organized adult sports, working with local contacts both in editing submitted copy and developing potential feature ideas. Night and weekend deadline work will also be required. This truly is a full-time desk position; writing opportunities will be minimal. The *Telegraph* is a 26,000 daily, 32,000 Sunday AM newspaper. Its sports section has received numerous state, regional and national APSE awards. The paper is making extensive use of multimedia. www.NashuaTelegraph.com Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Bill Dedman, managing editor, The *Telegraph*, P.O. Box 1008, Nashua, NH 03061. Tel. 603-594-6445, fax. 603-386-6313 BDedman@NashuaTelegraph.com ... The *Daily Press*, a 92,000-circulation daily owned by the Tribune Co., is looking for education, government and schools **reporters.** There is also a politics/religion reporter opening. Four reporting positions are open right now. The paper is located in Newport News, Va., adjacent to Hampton

Continued on next page

and about 20 miles from Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Send clips, resume and a cover letter to:
Ursula Nofal, Recruiting Coordinator, The Daily Press, 7505 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA 23607.

New fellowship

Stanford University's Bill Lane Center for the Study of the North American West announced a new short-term visiting **fellowship for working journalists**. Fellows will be in residence at Stanford for one to two weeks as they conduct research toward an article, series of articles or broadcast segment on a topic of particular significance to the United States west of the Mississippi, western Canada, or northern Mexico. Research areas can range widely, and may be related to the demographics, culture, politics, economy, or environment of the region. Since the fellowship is to disseminate new perspectives on these issues to the wider public, fellows must enter the program with an assignment letter from a news organization that commits to publishing or broadcasting the work within twelve months of the fellowship's completion.

The fellowship is open to print, broadcast, and online journalists. Each fellow will receive a stipend of \$3,000-\$7,500 to cover the cost of transportation, housing and meals while at Stanford, and other ancillary costs. Candidates should submit a resume or CV, a one-page description of the research project and the planned outlet for publication/broadcast, and samples of past work to: Western Enterprise Journalism Fellowship Selection Committee, c/o Ms. Connie Dennis, The Bill Lane Center for the North American West, Building 200, Stanford, CA 94305-2024

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP STAYS IS MAY 1, 2006.

For more information about the Bill Lane Center and its programming, see <http://west.stanford.edu>.

Questions about this fellowship may be directed to the Center's main office, (650) 725-1320.

Calendar

March 13, Washington, D.C. alumni reception at the National Press Club.

Visit www.jrn.columbia.edu to RSVP.

Friday, April 21, Columbia Journalism Alumni Association spring meeting.

Awards program and showcase event of the alumni weekend for classes including 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986 and 1981.

The **Black Alumni Network** of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism was founded in May 1980 and since July the group has published a monthly newsletter. The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. We publish job changes and moves, news about books and films published or produced by alumni, and family milestones. And of course we keep alumni connected to news from the Columbia GSJ. Log on to our Web site at www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/services/ban/ or see our link on the home page of www.blackjournalist.com
Wayne J. Dawkins – editor, Betty Winston Baye, Angela Chatman, Cheryl Devall, Dan Holly, Keith Rushing,
contributing editors E-mail tips, comments, suggestions to wjdaw69643@aol.com Or call 800-268-4338

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Black Alumni

jrncolumbia.edu

Hustle & Flow: Commentary, 2

Network Newsletter / Our 26th year / April 2006 / Vol. 26, No. 4

'88 J-school grad to open LA Times bureau in New Orleans

"The Los Angeles Times is establishing a temporary bureau in New Orleans," explained Ann Simmons, Columbia GSJ '88, in a March 7 message, "and I have been assigned to be the correspondent based there, for at least the next year. My brief will be to cover everything to do with the rebuilding, or lack thereof, of New Orleans. I depart Los Angeles this week."

[PHOTO: The News Hour on PBS]



Simmons has worked at the Los Angeles Times since 1997. She was formerly the paper's Nairobi and Johannesburg bureau chief. Simmons has been a roving state reporter for the paper since 2004.

More People news: page 3

While in Iraq, Simmons was injured when a New Years Eve 2003 bomb blast at a restaurant killed at least eight people and injured three dozen [BA Newsletter, January and February 2004].

"I am very excited about the New Orleans assignment," said Simmons. "It is both a sad and compelling story that will provide an opportunity

to do some important and rewarding work."

How to thrive in non-traditional journalism

Sheryl Huggins [PHOTO], panelist at a career forum last month, provides this briefing:

NEW YORK — As digital forms of media grow and traditional media outlets struggle to remain profitable, today's journalism school graduates are coming out market. Their predicament was the inspiration behind the Columbia J-School on March 21, "Thinking Hunting in Troubled Times."

Sponsored by the Alumni Association, the program people and featured panelists: **Diane Goldie, J-'83**, amNY.com; **Betty Holcomb, J-'76**, policy director Child Care Inc.; **Sheryl Huggins, J-'91**, editor-in-and Amy Resnick, editor-in-chief of The Bond



into an uncertain job
a panel discussion held at
Outside the Box: Job

was attended by about 35
the editorial director of
and newsletter editor for
chief of NiaOnline.com,
Buyer, and moderator.

During a two-hour program, panelists discussed how transition into — and ultimately thrive — in non-traditional areas of journalism, such as online, trade, and newsletter media outlets.

they have been able to

Several audience members voiced frustration at not being able to find work in television, newspaper, or magazine journalism, and asked how their skills might translate into careers at non-traditional outlets.

"Remember, most people don't really know what they actually know. Understand your skill set apart from the job positions in which you gained your skills, and be ready to repackage those skills for the next position," counseled Huggins.

Continued page 3

Alumni Weekend '06; Future journalists counting on you [back page]

Hard out here to score an upset, yet that happened Oscar night

Am I one of the few who was amused by the shocked – yes shocked – reactions of a number of blacks to the Academy Awards choice for 2005 Best Movie Song: "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" by Three 6 Mafia?

Three 6's hip-hop tune was in "Hustle & Flow," starring Terrence Howard as Djay, a Memphis pimp. **Wayne Dawkins/Commentary**



A Washington Post reaction story less than 48 hours after the award ["Oscar winner hits angry chord: 'Pimp' song denounced for exploiting negative stereotypes"] quoted blacks who sounded off as if the music award was a plot by

"the man" to make blacks look bad.

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/06/AR2006030601461.html

The day after the Oscars, my best friend e-mailed me the reaction of a high-profile ESPN sports pundit who said he was embarrassed by the Three 6 Mafia's on-stage performance. Three 6 performed with bravado and exuberance. I wasn't offended, unlike recent music award shows in which backstage assaults with weapons or onstage over-the-top vulgarity by hip-hop acts stained the celebrations.

Yet a number of pundits and men and women in the streets were offended by a winning movie tune that defended pimps. Or did the song in fact celebrate pimps? Is it really hard out here for a pimp? Who is leading *that* crusade?

I guess I'm not appropriately appalled because the tune feels like a parody. I doubt that Three 6 Mafia was angling for an NAACP Image Award.

Moreover, if the award was a plot by "the man," maybe the recognition was the Academy's way of messing with a demographic, a warning to artists to be careful what they put out in mainstream; their work might be validated.

I compared notes with several colleagues who debated the merits of the tune on the NABJ listserv.

"I'm also intrigued by the 'be careful what you wish for' reality that is Three 6's win," said Shauna Rhone, Web editor with The Capital Times of Madison, Wis. "And," she continued, "the 'yay ... ooooo' reactions from black people who are the go-to experts on black culture where they work and live. After looking up the origin of the group's name, I was glad nobody asked me about it here. It's hard out here defending a pimp."

AP Music Writer Nekesa Moody said, "I know my sisters were outraged, but I can't say I was.

"I mean, these images have been out there for years, celebrated by many – but not all – blacks for years. Why get upset when white people celebrate it? No one loses their mind when they get a BET award or whatever."

She added that "The Dolly Parton song ["Travelin' Thru," from the movie "Transamerica"] was way better."

Moody had other concerns besides movie tunes allegedly celebrating pimp life: "Now I'd really like someone to write a commentary about the Wayans brothers' new children's show for Nickelodeon, entitled 'Thugaboo.'"
www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11732742/

Keith Rushing, '90, a reporter with the Daily Press in Hampton Roads, Va., said: "As for the pimp song and the Three 6 Mafia, the film industry's comfortable with the ne'er do-well black male, pimp, thug or ex-con. That's why 'Hustle & Flow' was so popular at Sundance and distributors were competing to get distribution deals for the film.

"Although Terrence Howard did a sympathetic portrayal of the pimp Djay – it's the same old, same old in the industry. Pimps seem like a throwback to the 1970s era, but a lot of black folks, including John Singleton, would probably call it realism."

Continued on next page

Hard out here/Continued

This seemed real: Terrence Howard showed off wide acting range in 2005. His portrayal of a pimp meshed with the raw energy of a winning Oscar tune that is despised or admired, depending on who's critiquing. Howard also played a compromised movie executive and was part of the ensemble cast of this year's surprise Best Movie, "Crash."

Another view: Commentary by Jill Nelson, '80

www.niaonline.com/NiaLD/NewDesign/homepage_channel/homepage_article/0.2011.2983.00.html

An underdog movie winning the big prize was a far more pleasant accomplishment than people's shock over Hollywood recognition of a movie tune that is not that profound.

How to thrive/Continued

Goldie advised jobseekers to take risks when opportunities present themselves and be prepared to learn on the job, using her own experience of learning online skills while Internet journalism was in its infancy as an example.

Alumni Association president **Jeff Bogart, J-'64**, told the gathering it was one of the most interesting panel discussions hosted by the association that he could recall. An audio clip of the discussion is scheduled to be posted on the Alumni Association Web site. Check www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/associations/association to listen in.

People

On March 31, **Marquita Pool-Eckert, '69**, closes out a 31-year career at CBS. She was in her 16th year as senior producer of CBS News "Sunday Morning." Before that Pool-Eckert was a long time producer for "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather" and she produced stories on economics, politics, and other national and world news. She worked in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Central America and the Caribbean. In 2002, Pool-Eckert was a Distinguished Columbia Journalism Alumni award winner, and she has also won numerous media and community service awards, including 11 Emmys.

[PHOTO: maynardjoe.org]



"I'm looking forward to a breather," she said, "before I decide what my next act will be." At the moment Pool-Eckert is adjunct teaching, assisting June Cross with the documentary workshop at Columbia J-school. "I am enjoying it tremendously," said Pool-Eckert. "It never occurred to me that I would find my way back there."



Reginald Stuart, '71, corporate recruiter with Knight Ridder, is a winner of a National Association of Minority Media Executives [NAMME] 2006 media award. Stuart and others were recognized for outstanding achievements by individuals who advocate diversity and inclusion in all facets of the media business, reported media columnist Richard Prince on March 9. Stuart and other winners are to be honored at the 12th annual awards banquet April 27 in Seattle.

[PHOTO: nahj.org]

Cheryl Devall '82, signed on recently as a news editor at public station KPCC-FM in Los Angeles. Immediately before that she was a free-lance public radio editor.

250 future journalists are counting on you

Alumni Fund: A Campaign for Financial Aid 2005-2006

In an age of eroding standard and compromised practices in the newsroom, the world depends more than ever on the next generation of journalists from Columbia University. Your ongoing support to the Journalism Alumni Fund ensures that the school is able to recruit the best possible students for journalism. 100 percent of your donation will support financial aid.

- 80 percent of students receive financial aid each year
- Tuition for the 10-month program is \$38,000; total budget including living expenses is \$59,000.
- The average salary after graduation is \$30,000; the average debt load of a graduating student is \$44,500.

To participate, visit www.jm.columbia.edu/alumni/support or contact Amanda Wilson, aw2188@columbia.edu. There are 45 alumni campaign agents that include A'Leia P. Bundles, '76, Fran A. Hardin, '77, and Wayne Dawkins, '80.

Alumni Weekend 2006 — Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Thursday April 20 through Sunday April 23, New York City

Alumni Association Award Winners Alexander Belida Jr., '71, [Voice of America]; Howard Fineman, '73, [Newsweek]; Tom Goldstein, '69, [former GSJ dean, now director of UC-Berkeley Mass Communications program], and Robin Reisig, '68, [J-school instructor since 1983], will be recognized at the spring meeting 6 p.m., Friday, April 21 in the Low Library Faculty room. A reception and book signing by alumni authors will follow. At the Saturday alumni luncheon, the Dean's Medal for Public Service is to be awarded to Madeleine May Kunin, '57, former governor of Vermont and U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland. Jim Kelly, managing editor of Time magazine, is the keynote speaker. Reunion classes of 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001 will hold class socials. Other forums and tours are scheduled. Check www.jm.columbia.edu for a complete listing.

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Alumni

Ethics 101: Don't extort, 2

Network

Newsletter / Our 26th year / May 2006 / Vol. 26, No. 5

Scholarship inspired Katrina reporting, says inaugural recipient Dani McClain

BA Network endowment drive continues; please participate

By Wayne Dawkins, J-'80

Danita "Dani" McClain received the first Black Alumni Network scholarship, a \$5,000 award for the 2006 school year at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. McClain will be recognized at the May 16 Journalism Day festivities.

"The scholarship has helped me tremendously," she said in an e-mail message last month.

"Receiving it allowed me to focus on doing my best work this year, rather than obsessing about the cost of the experience.



"In RWI [Reporting and Writing], I produced a 2,500-word enterprise piece on a New Orleans family's relocation to Queens [N.Y.] after the hurricane. I encourage anyone who's interested to check out the story

at www.altnet.org/katrina/31701/.

"My master's project focused on New Orleans artists who moved to New York in the wake of the destruction of the city that offered them inspiration and community.

"In addition to RWI with Sig Gissler, last semester I enjoyed Judith Crist's class on developing a personal literary style. I'm now taking Sam Freedman's book seminar, in which I'm developing a proposal for a reported meditation on race and class in the post-Civil Rights era. My book interweaves the story of my hometown, Cincinnati, with aspects of my family's recent history. [They have lived in the Cincinnati area for at least five generations].

"I've also enjoyed the radio workshop, in which we produce Radio Gotham, a weekly news magazine modeled on "All Things Considered." Our most recent broadcast and archives can be found at

www.jrn.columbia.edu/academics/studentwork/radio/175/2006-04-14/broadcast.asp

"Overall, I think my year has been a success, and I greatly appreciate the Black Alumni Network's scholarship."

McClain's award came from a \$34,000 gift given by a source interested in promoting diversity in journalism. The J-school is committed to awarding scholarships for five to seven years. Alumni are now challenged to make the scholarship program permanent. The BA Network is conducting a drive to raise \$100,000 from alumni to endow a scholarship at Columbia. Please participate and support future Dani McClains.



Does RWI [Reporting and Writing I, the core Columbia GSJ class] work?

Two 2005 graduates were part of Biloxi *Sun Herald* team that shared this year's Pulitzer Prize for public service, Vice Dean David Klatell told incoming students at the spring alumni weekend last month. Also, a J-school grad was on the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* team that shared the gold medal with Biloxi, said Dean Nicholas Lemann. And, two of the three Washington Post reporters who won Pulitzers for investigative reporting were J-school alums. Reportin' and writin' seems to work.

Journalism ethics 101: Don't lie, or extort

Jared Paul Stern is poised to join the gallery of journalism scoundrels. He's a gossip writer for the New York Post Page Six column. Last month he became the subject of a federal investigation. Stern is accused of extorting money from a billionaire California financier.



Pay me \$100,000 up front and an annual \$10,000 stipend, Stern told Ronald Burkle, and he would make unflattering celebrity stories about Burkle disappear. That

Wayne Dawkins/Commentary

was the conversation, according to feds who taped the exchange.

Stern's saga led me to amend a previous lesson to classes of beginning media writing students at Hampton University: Your legal and ethics chapter warns don't lie, I told them. Now add don't extort.

Stern's defense was he was "set up."

That defense has as much credibility as former Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry caught on tape smoking crack. When the authorities caught him, he blamed his mistress ["bitch set me up" were Barry's infamous words in 1990].

I tried to explain to 32 students why the rival New York Daily News was gleeful about the Post's woes. I don't think I effectively conveyed how much both tabloids loathe each other.

That's a shame because the Page Six Post caper shows that even gossip is a brand or franchise that has a level of integrity or value.

Love it, hate it, it seems everyone reads Page Six to get the 4-1-1 on who's zooming who, as Aretha Franklin famously sang. Well, can news consumers trust that dirt?

From the initial days of the media feeding frenzy it looked like the New York Post pulled out all the stops to protect its most recognized feature. Questions about Stern were handled by leading public relations meister Howard Rubenstein.

And don't let the swinging doors hit you on the way out.

Stern was suspended from the paper, Rubenstein told scribes from the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and elsewhere. The punishment seemed light even though the writer was not convicted, at least in the justice system.

Again, I cautioned my students, don't extort or be accused of the act. Jared Paul Stern was merely suspended, remarkably delicate treatment. For the rest of us, our belongings would be swept from our desks, I said, and the misguided soul would be drop-kicked like the cowboy who was jacked up in a saloon fight.

You know the reminder; don't let the swinging doors hit you on the way out.

People

Erinn Texiera's, '95, April 13 Associated Press dispatch "Duke rape scandal opens old wounds," received major play and was the subject of spirited discussion, for example in The Washington Post, the Guardian of Great Britain and praise as coverage he would like to see more of by Mark Anthony Neal, a cultural critic who teaches at Duke in Durham.

Read for yourself www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/13/AR2006041300987.htm

Also reporting on the high-profile case was **George [Bundy] Smith, '88**, of ESPN from Durham.



Keith Rushing, '90, moves this month to the North County Times [95,000 circulation] in California to cover education for the city of Oceanside. Rushing spent seven years at the Daily Press of Newport News-Hampton, Va. [also 95,000 circulation] covering justice beats. Before that he reported from a bureau in Smithfield. Rushing said his new assignment should be interesting: "The Superintendent of the district I'll cover is controversial but has attracted a lot of attention for showing some of the greatest test score gains in the state. He's forced a lot of teachers and principals to transfer over his nine years in the district and was subject of a U.S. Office of Civil Rights Complaint for his fierce opposition to bilingual education. He also sits on the

state's Board of Education, directing educational policy." Rushing also said his new office "will be about four blocks from a great beach, so I'm not mad at all." [Photo from <http://linthefray.com>]



Sheryl Hilliard Tucker, '82, is among nine contributors to the new book "Tomorrow Begins Today: African American Women as We Age," published by the National Council of Negro Women. Hilliard Tucker, editor-at-large with Time Inc., wrote the section that guide readers from financial survival to financial security and offers tips on how to earn, plan, protect, save, invest and spend money, said a news release. The NCNW [1935-] has 39 affiliates and does outreach to nearly four million women. [Photo, www.targetmarketnews.com]

Kip Branch, '79, journalism professor at Elizabeth City State University in Eastern North Carolina, was among nine HBCU fellows who participated in "Who's Watching You?" a Media Ethics symposium at Hampton University April 3.

Jobline

The South Florida *Sun-Sentinel* seeks: **Editorial page editor**, an experienced journalist of the highest integrity to lead a staff of eight and work closely with the editor and publisher, to formulate this newspaper's editorial page policies; **bureau chief**, to oversee the bureau in West Palm Beach; **court reporter**, to join a two-member team covering the criminal justice system in Palm Beach County; **local reporter** to cover a sprawling western suburban area of Palm Beach County, and **news designer**, on the night news desk. CCI Layout Champ experience is an advantage; knowledge of Photoshop, InDesign and/or Quark is required. Send a letter of interest, resume and samples of your work to Kathy Pellegrino, recruitment editor, Sun-Sentinel, 200 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

The *Virginian-Pilot* seeks a **metro columnist**, a strong voice to add to its local news section. They want a muckraking columnist who is not afraid to mix it up with a mayor or a skinhead, someone who will go in search of the untold story off the news, who can tell stories from every corner of Hampton Roads, who can make readers care through great storytelling.

Send a cover letter explaining why the paper should pick you and what would make you stand out as a columnist, a list of 10 column ideas, clips, three sample columns and a resume. Send your packet by May 15 to: Denis Finley, editor, The *Virginian-Pilot*, 150 W. Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23510.

National Association of Black Journalists news

Calling all recent NABJ-member authors: Have you published a book in past 12 months? Or, is there a book in you? If so, participate in the *Authors Showcase* in Indianapolis Aug. 17-19. Send three copies of your book and complete an application available at www.nabj.org/conventions/2006/specialevents/showcase

May 15 is the deadline for entries. At least five workshops are scheduled including sessions on fiction, memoirs and biographies, sessions on trends in the publishing industry, and independent & self-publishing.



A'Leia Bundles, '76 ["On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker"], is co-coordinator of the showcase with **Wayne Dawkins** ["The NABJ Story"], '80, and **Andrea King Collier** ["Still with Me: A Daughter's Journey of Love and Loss"].

A'Leia Bundles photo: Library of Congress Web site.

'From Newsroom to Classroom, Full-time' Thursday afternoon, Aug. 17 at the Indianapolis convention examines longtime journalists making the transition to academia.

There's a lot more to college teaching than lecturing and grading papers. Know about dossiers, vitas, committee assignments, school governance, and more? Learn from industry pros who have made the switch. **Wayne Dawkins, '80**, assistant professor at the Hampton University Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications, is the workshop coordinator.

July 1 is the pre-registration deadline for the 31st convention. Details at www.nabj.org

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'79 Columbia J-school graduate named NABJ educator of the year



Elizabeth City State University [N.C.] Associate Professor **Kip Branch**, '79, was named National Association of Black Journalists Journalism Educator of the Year. The special honor was announced at the end of April.

Branch will be recognized at the Oct. 14 Salute to Excellence Awards gala in Washington, D.C. or sooner at the banquet at the NABJ-Indianapolis convention in late August. BTW, Branch wrote "The Legacy of Jackie McLean: On March 30, jazz lost another giant. He will be remembered not only for his music but for his compassion and sense of history." Branch's appreciation appeared in Port Folio Weekly, the Hampton Roads, Va. alternative newspaper. More **People** news on page 3. [PHOTO: ecsu.edu]

BAN scholarship among 45 J-school supporters; time to make an enduring gift

NEW YORK – At Journalism Day on May 16, 45 donors were recognized for gifts that supported scholarships for Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism students.



The first Black Alumni Network scholar, **Dani McClain**, was there the day before her graduation. McClain's award came from a \$34,000 gift given by a source interested in promoting diversity in journalism. The J-school is committed to awarding scholarships for five to seven years.

It is time for alumni to permanently endow the scholarship.

The BA Network is conducting a drive to raise \$100,000. People made pledges at last summer's NABJ convention breakfast meeting. We will meet again next August in Indianapolis to seek more support. You don't have to wait for August. Call Amanda Wilson, 212-854-5263, or message av2186@columbia.edu

Some notes about the 45 donors. One of them was the Sylvia Wilson, '85, Memorial Scholarship. www.nyabj.org/student_services.html

As of February, \$52,000 in cash and pledges were in the BA N endowment fund. We were unable to get an updated figure at press time. Other scholarships were sponsored by the classes of 1952, 1969 and 1977, and a scholarship is in the name of former dean **Joan Konner**, '61. Dear friends, let us move with deliberate speed to endow our Black Alumni Network scholarship. – *Wayne Dawkins*

Who's ready to join an aristocracy of excellence?

Winning a Pulitzer Prize means joining an "aristocracy of excellence," Henry Louis Gates told National Public Radio. As one 2005 winner joked in that broadcast, if she committed murder, the lead of the crime story would read "Pulitzer Prize winner [her name here] was charged with murder today."

Pulitzers indeed mark you for life.



Wayne Hawkins/Commentary

I was reminded of another mark of excellence two weeks after the 2006 Pulitzers were dispensed. On April 21, I listened to the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Vice Dean David Klatell briefed the incoming class of

2007 on the rigors of the J-school.

A former dean called Columbia "The West Point of journalism," said Klatell. He suggested that the J-school could also be called the "Juliard of journalism" because so many students benefited from individual instruction by virtuosos of the craft.

The new class aspiring to become masters of the craft was diverse, at least career-wise: A third of them were fresh undergraduates. A third of the incoming class was pursuing journalism studies after working for years as radiologists, pastry chefs, movie stunt doubles, or as government employees-turned-recent retirees

The final third were those with 3-5 years of professional journalism experience who were returning to school to sharpen their skills, develop competency in a new format or to burnish their ability to handle a specialized beat.

The aggregate age of the newcomers was 28.5 years, said Klatell.

Whether 116th and Broadway feels like a military academy or an elite music school, incoming students were told to be prepared for a grueling year.

School begins in early August, Klatell warned, and late arrival is unacceptable. Some of you, he said, may have to cancel the annual family vacation on Martha's Vineyard.

I chuckled. This child of Bedford-Stuyvesant had no clue about Cape Cod vacations when I was a 20-something about to enter the gates of 116th and Broadway.

West Point or Juliard of Journalism?

Anyway, I appreciated Klatell's warning: Get ready for 10 months of chasing newsmakers, meeting multiple deadlines, and honing the craft in classrooms and on the streets of New York.

I hope the incoming students felt as inspired as I did during that session included in the spring alumni weekend.

As a first-year, full-time university professor, I am trying to instill notions of excellence and earnest work habits in the minds of my students at Hampton University.

On the day after the Pulitzers were announced, I displayed images that illustrated the winning entries of Washington Post fashion writer Robin Givhan for two of my introductory media writing classes.

In the classroom next door, colleague Kissette Bundy, GSJ '87, challenged her two sections of introductory media writing student with a lecture early in the semester called "Do you *really* want to join the Fourth Estate?"

I hope many of our HU students rise to that challenge. Maybe in time a special few will join that "aristocracy of excellence."

The writer is a 1980 Columbia Journalism graduate.

People

"Savoring the vote of confidence Saturday that gave him a second term, Mayor C. Ray Nagin called for unity in the storm-ravaged city, saying it's 'time for this community to start the healing process.... It's time for us to set the stage for recovery,'" was the lead of *Ann Simmons*, '88, May 21, Los Angeles Times dispatch.



On the CBS Evening News May 22, **James McBride**, '80, topped the list of newsmakers who gave memorable commencement speeches. McBride, a draw because of 1996 memoir "The Color of Water," was grouped with Spike Lee and Colin Powell. McBride spoke this season at Butler University in Indiana, and later at Norwalk Community College in Connecticut. There, he told 711 graduates not to be afraid of failing, and to apply to four-year colleges, reported *The Advocate* of Stamford, Conn. "Life is gonna knock you down," said McBride, who received an honorary degree from Connecticut Community Colleges' board of trustees, "but you've already demonstrated that you know how to get up." [PHOTO: arts.endow.gov] www.butler.edu/about/abo_news_story.asp?strBack=%2Fdefault.asp&iNewsID=902



Addie Rimmer, '78, a J-school professor, told us she will be guiding student journalists at NABJ Monitor summer convention newspaper, and she will be an instructor at the Summer Editing Program at the University of Nevada-Reno [PHOTO: alumni.jm.columbia.edu]. ... "Great news! Moved to St. Louis in March where I am working as a weekend weather anchor for Tribune-owned KPLR, a WB affiliate," wrote **Olga Joseph**, '92. "We will be part of the new CW network in September. My duties include general assignment news reporting three days each week. I am still on track to receive an online B.S. degree in Geosciences from Mississippi State University in August. So far my first weather job has been a dream come true. I'm in a portion of the nation that experiences frequent severe weather outbreaks. What a challenging environment for a forecaster!" Joseph has a new on-air name: Olga Breese.

Jobline

The South Florida *Sun-Sentinel* seeks candidates for these positions: **Municipal Beat** – An aggressive, creative, persistent reporter to cover the city of Sunrise. The successful applicant will be responsible for developing news and feature stories out of one of our most competitive cities. Sunrise has 85,000 residents, and a decades-long history of controversy and behind-the-scenes politics. The reporter must be able to develop good sources in government, among homeowners associations and various civic groups. Applicants should have at least three years of experience. Database reporting skills and the ability to speak Spanish or Haitian Creole are considered a plus. The person who fills this position will file reports to the *Sun-Sentinel* Internet Edition and to other media affiliated with the *Sun-Sentinel*. Send a cover letter, resume and from 5 to 7 clips to Kathy Pellegrino, Recruitment Editor, South Florida *Sun-Sentinel* 200 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 ... **Sports Designer** – A versatile designer needed in a high-profile position. The job primarily involves work on section fronts and special sections. The ideal candidate is a visual ace who understands the importance of the right headline, knows when to get out of the way of a good photo and who also excels at making something out of nothing. The candidate should have experience on a deadline-oriented sports desk, but also important are a dynamite portfolio and a high level of enthusiasm. Experience with Photoshop and ability in either Quark or InDesign are a must. Send a resume, cover letter and a tightly edited portfolio of your best clips (PDFs encouraged) to Jonathan Boho, sports presentation editor, South Florida *Sun-Sentinel*, 200 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 or to jboho@sun-sentinel.com. E-mail responses are preferred ... **Sports Reporter** – Cover high school sports in Palm Beach County. We're looking for someone with high energy and strong journalistic skills to work in a very competitive market. The job will involve a heavy workload with an expectation that the writer will handle live coverage of events, write season previews and other features, develop trend and enterprise

Continued on next page

Jobline/Continued ... stories, write a bi-weekly column and execute a number of all-county postseason products. In addition, there will be some general assignment stories during summers. The area of coverage ranges from Boca Raton to Belle Glade and Jupiter. Send a cover letter, resume and from 5 to 7 clips to Brian White, sports editor, South Florida Sun-Sentinel 200 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, bwhite@sun-sentinel.com. The Virginian-Pilot seeks candidates for these positions: **Senior Editor** [10 years experience, including five years supervisory experience] **Staff Writer/Defense & Technology** [seven years reporting experience at a daily newspaper], **Staff Writer/Virginia Beach** [five years of reporting experience at a daily newspaper, including two years experience in public affairs reporting]. Check www.journalismjobs.com, www.journalismnext.com and www.TheVirginianPilot.com/careers Minnesota Public Radio/American Public Media is offering a Web and Production Internship. June 15 is the application deadline. Apply by visiting <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/about/jobs/> and click on the Job Openings link. Click on the Intern, Speaking of Faith job opening [No. 308] to apply online and submit a resume and cover letter.

Float like a butterfly, sing like a 'Bee'

June is the 28th anniversary of **Black Music Month**, a celebration created by Kenny Gamble of



Philadelphia International Records, launching pad of the soulful '70s "Philadelphia sound." It was apropos that two memorable soundtrack songs from this season's feel-good movie "Akeelah and the Bee" are from the Philly songbook.

A lighthearted moment early in "Akeelah and the Bee" skipped along to the Spinner's "Rubberband Man [1976]," and later, a moment calling for courage and determination was led by Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes'

anthem "Wake Up Everybody [1975]." What's your favorite from the soundtrack of your life?

Drop us an e-mail this month. [PHOTO: projo.com, Providence Journal online]

The **Black Alumni Network** of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism was founded in May 1980 and since July the group has published a monthly newsletter. The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. We publish job changes and moves, news about books and films published or produced by alumni, and family milestones. And of course we keep alumni connected to news from the Columbia GSJ. Log on to our Web site at www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/services/ban/ or see our link on the home page of www.blackjournalist.com Wayne J. Dawkins – editor, Betty Winston Baye, Kissette Bundy, Angela Chatman, Cheryl Devall, Dan Holly, Keith Rushing, contributing editors E-mail tips, comments, suggestions to wdaw69643@aol.com Or call 800-268-4338

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Phyl Garland, retired J-school prof., gravely ill

By Wayne Dawkins, '80

Recently retired Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism professor Phyllis T. Garland is battling cancer and has been hospitalized since April. At press time, Garland, 70, was residing at Calvary Hospice in Brooklyn.



PHOTO CREDIT:
civilrightsandthepress.syr.edu

"I look forward to being back in the crowd," said Garland in a telephone interview in June. "Take care, babe." At that time she was hoping to return to her beloved Greenwich Village apartment. The cancer did not retreat, and

she was transferred

to hospice care.

In May 2004, Garland wrapped up 31 years of teaching at the J-school [June 2004 BAN account]. She was the only black, tenured full-time professor at the school, and in 1981, Garland was the first woman of any race to become tenured at the school, E.R. Shipp, '79, reported in our December 1997 edition. Upon her retirement, the trustees of Columbia University named Garland professor emerita.

Garland had a knack for breaking new ground. When she enrolled at Northwestern University in

the 1950s, the school had recently bowed to demands that black students be allowed to live on campus. Garland's main interests were music and drama, however the daughter of journalist parents came home in 1957 to the Pittsburgh Courier, then among five elite black-owned newspapers.

In 1965, Garland was hired by Ebony magazine. She said its publisher, the late John H. Johnson, must have hired her "just to shut me up." That year, Garland wrote a scathing piece on the "superficial bourgeois values of Ebony," for the Courier.

In 1997, she told Shipp: that in her Ebony days she "met and wrote about many major figures in one of the most eventful periods of our history."

One memorable trip took her to Ruleville, Miss., where Fannie Lou Hamer told Garland of her struggle. "I couldn't control myself," she recalled. "Tears were streaming down my face and they were streaming down her [Hamer's] face too. It was that heavy. You couldn't imagine people surviving that oppression and harassment and torture."

Garland's passion remained performing arts and culture. [As an Ebony contributor through 1990, she helped introduce Wynton Marsalis to the world in a 1983 article.] In 1969, she published "The Sound of Soul," her first book.

Continued on page 3

J-Alumni fund drive exceeds 6-figure target; 6 alumni short of 1,000 donors

Just days short of a June 30 deadline, organizers of the Columbia Journalism Alumni fund drive reported they exceeded a \$385,000 target, and was six alumni short of 1,000 participants.

Amanda Wilson of the J-school development office said as of June 26, \$409,000 in donations and pledges had been received from 994 alumni.

For example, the **Class of 1980** pledged \$9,435 and represented 9 percent of their class, the **Class of 1976** pledged \$13,950 and represented 23 percent of their class, and the **Class of 2001** pledged \$9,855 and represented 11 percent of their class. Call 212-854-5263 to give. Online donations are accepted.

Busy music month reinforces ironclad reporting rule

Verify, verify, and verify again. That's the journalists' creed. That rule was reinforced when I greeted Jean Carne June 22 as she entered the studio of Hampton University radio station WHOV-FM 88.1.

Two weeks earlier, I showed summer school reporting class students the cover of the rare 1960s album "Infant Eyes" [Black Jazz, out of print] that displayed vocalist Carne, her former husband Doug, and their infant son.



Wayne Hawkins/Commentary

A student pointed out that the last name on the LP was spelled "Carn." So, in the studio, I asked the singer, which version is right, Carn, or Carne?

"Both," she said. The singer explained that in 1985, on the advice

of a numerologist, she added the "e" to her last name. When in doubt about people's names and affiliations, ask, especially when you get a chance to get the answer straight from the celebrity.

Carne was in town for the 38th Hampton Jazz Festival, and that evening she ["Closer than Close"], other late-1970s era jazz/funk, jazz/rock stars Roy Ayers ["Everybody Loves the Sunshine"]; Wayne Henderson [Crusaders trombonist, "Keep that Same Old Feeling"]; Ronnie Laws ["Friends and Strangers"] and Lonnie Liston Smith ["Expansions"] offered a symposium on "Jazz in the Hip-Hop Generation."

Joining the old-school musicians were Easy Mo Bee, who said on the radio that he was the first hip-hop producer to produce a jazz master, Miles Davis' last recording, "Du Bop" in 1992. I'm glad Easy, producer of Alicia Keys, Tupac Shakur, Notorious B.I.G., Big Daddy Kane and others, pointed out the Miles connection. In class I had battled to persuade disbelieving students that there have been hip-hop and jazz collaborations, just like the hybrids Ayers,

Carne, Henderson, Laws and Smith spliced three decades ago. The milestone moment, I told students, was Quincy Jones' 1989 recording "Back on the Block," that had rappers Ice-T, Kool Moe Dee and Kane jamming on the same recording with Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, Chaka Khan and James Moody.

A student who seemed blasé about my exuberance over Quincy Jones' body of work, made a discovery in her reporting: A rapper recently covered a 1962 Quincy Jones recording but she was unsure of the name. In an online search, the LP was identified as "Sou Bossa Nova" and "Soul Bossa Nova."

I recommended that she check the amazon.com link, because it displayed the classic LP cover and even plays samples of the music. Yes, when there's doubt verify, and verify again.

* * *

June was Black Music Month, 30 days packed with news and anecdotes: Billy Preston, 59, producer of hits, "Nothing from Nothing" and "You Are So Beautiful," died. So did Kool and the Gang co-founder Claydes Charles Smith, 57, who wrote the group's 1980s crossover comeback hits "Celebration" and "Joanna. I'm a bigger fan of the funkier '70s hits "Jungle Boogie" and "Hollywood Swinging."

On the day of the Hampton symposium, Kevin "Moose" Anderson, host of the "Lessons in Jazz" show, told me with delight that Wayne Henderson said he played drums on trumpeter Hugh Masekela's recording of "Grazing in the Grass."

Then there was the morning my cell phone vibrated in class and I ignored the buzz to continue lecturing. When I returned the call it was my friend/colleague/editor Denise Bridges. She told me that during her drive to work, Tavis Smiley on the radio predicted Cornel West would win the dance contest at Tom Joyner "Sky Show." Years ago Bridges gave me a photo of professor West, dressed in his trademark three-piece dark suit, getting down in the center of a packed NABJ convention dance floor.

Where did he learn to move like that? Smiley explained that in Sacramento, the organist at West's church was Sly Stone.

Retired professor/Continued

In 1971, Garland accepted an invitation to speak at a library dedication at the State University of New York at New Paltz. The event led to an invitation to teach in the Black Studies Department from 1971-73.

Gayle Pollard-Terry, '73, said in 2004 that she lobbied Columbia to hire Prof. Garland.

C. Gerald Fraser, an adjunct professor who worked with Garland for a dozen years, also said in 2004, "A favorite committee assignment was admissions, where she had a say in the admittance of black students to the prestigious institution...A primary advocate for all J-school students, Garland manifested special concern for black students."

Jill Nelson, '80, said in the 1997 account that Garland was "welcoming" in a Columbia environment that was part crusty old editors of the "Front Page" vintage and part Camp LeJeune boot camp with John Wayne as drill instructor. "I always felt that she wanted me to succeed," said Nelson, "but that didn't mean she was easy. She wasn't."

Richard Wexler, '76, explained in 2004 that Garland "Knew the difference between being tough and being mean. Our papers bled red [ink] but we never were cut."

Evelyn C. White, '85, in an e-mail from Western Canada, wrote: "I was just going through some personal papers and photos and came across my *autographed* photo of Ms. Leontyne Price. This was the photo I got after Phyl arranged for me to meet Ms. Price after a solo concert at the Metropolitan Opera. That event was the highlight of my year at Columbia J-School. I can still remember trailing behind Phyl and walking past all these, need I say – white people – who were decked out in tuxedos and evening gowns.

"In the Motown tradition of Eddie Kendricks, Phyl, with book bag slung across her chest, just 'kept on truckin.'"

"When we got to Ms. Price's door, Phyl was greeted like royalty. In addition to every thing else, the moment helped me understand the warm, respectful, familial relationship that pioneering black journalists had with trailblazing black artists. Thanks to Phyl Garland, I was able to bear witness."

Phyllis Garland is being cared for at Calvary Hospice Unit, 309, at the Lutheran Hospital Center, 150 55th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220. The telephone number is 718 630 6649. Visiting is permitted 24 hours.

Jobline: Opportunities in Sacramento, Minneapolis and Detroit

The Sacramento Bee seeks two metro reporters, an assistant sports editor and a business reporter covering personal finance. For more info on the metro positions, contact Assistant Managing Editor Scott LeBar at slebar@sacbee.com or 916-321-1182. For the other two positions, contact Assistant Managing Editor Tom Negretti at tnegretti@sacbee.com or 916-321-1171.

WCCO-TV/CBS Minneapolis seeks an anchor to deliver news during live broadcasts. Primary accountabilities: Anchor newscasts, and report news events. Ensure a balanced and ethical presentation of the news. Completion of special assignments from inception to delivery on the air. Work with News, Production, and Engineering on the daily broadcast, and special

reports. Idea generation for the daily broadcast, special reports, and sweeps planning. Live reports from the field and possible daily reporting. Research, write, edit, and rewrite stories for broadcast (may vary). Participate in various Community Relations/Public Relations appearances (parades, organization dinners, fund raisers, etc.) Ensure the daily broadcast stays within the "Brand." Other duties as assigned.

Minimum experience requirements: Five years experience as an anchor or general assignment reporter in a medium/large market. Write to WCCO-TV, 90 South 11th St., Minneapolis, MN 55403.

Continued on next page

Jobline/ Continued

The Detroit Free Press seeks: **Business editor** to direct an aggressive, high-profile journalistic team. This is a job with impact, and includes responsibility for overseeing daily stand-alone sections, three columnists, a steady flow of front-page stories and, soon, the business section in one of the biggest Sunday papers in the country. Emphasis on automobile companies and their suppliers, aviation, health care, development, marketing, energy, labor and technology. The Free Press also seeks a **reporter** who would be part of a four-person education team; experienced news designers; **news editor** for freep.com; **web editor/ breaking news**; and sports copy editors. Apply to Editor Paul Anger, 600 W. Fort St., Detroit, Mich. 48226.

N A B J news: Authors Showcase lineup set

"Writing Our Family Stories: Mothers, Daughters, Fathers, Sons," kicks off the 4th annual National Association of Black Journalists *Authors Showcase* in Indianapolis Aug. 17-19. **June Cross**, a J-school professor and author of "Secret Daughter: A Mixed Race Daughter and the Mother Who Gave Her Away," is among the panelists. **A'Lelia Bundles**, '76 ["On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker"], will moderate the 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday event. "Secrets to Writing a Bestseller: Book Proposals and Marketing Platforms," is 2:45 to 4:15 p.m. Thursday. That evening, "CSI-NY" [CBS] star Hill Harper and Aerie Taree, founding member of Arrested Development, will lead a 6:30 to 8 p.m. celebrity book signing. Friday workshops are "Fiction 2006: From Literary LA to the Streets of West Philly," 10 to 11:30 a.m., and "Nonfiction 2006: From Johannesburg to Your Own Back Yard," 2 to 3:30 p.m. On Saturday, **Wayne Dawkins**, '80, ["The NABJ Story"], will moderate the "Independent Publishing" panel from 9 a.m. to 10:30. Visit www.nabj.org/conventions/2006/special-events/showcase



Bundles photo:
Library of Congress

'From Newsroom to Classroom, Full-time' 2:30 to 4:15 p.m. Thursday in Indianapolis examines longtime journalists making the transition to academia. Know about dossiers, vitas, committee assignments, school governance, and more? Learn from industry pros who have made the switch.

July 1 is the convention pre-registration deadline. Visit www.nabi.org

The **Black Alumni Network** of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism was founded in May 1980 and since July the group has published a monthly newsletter. The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. We publish job changes and moves, news about books and films published or produced by alumni, and family milestones. And of course we keep alumni connected to news from the Columbia GSJ. Log on to our Web site at www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/services/ban/ or see our link on the home page of www.blackjournalist.com Wayne J. Dawkins – editor, Betty Winston Baye, Kissette Bundy, Angela Chatman, Cheryl Devall, Dan Holly, Keith Rushing, **contributing editors** E-mail tips, comments, suggestions to wdaw69643@aol.com Or call 800-268-4338

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Alumni

'An Inconvenient Truth,' 2

Network Newsletter /Our 26th year/ August 2006/ Vol. 26, No. 8

Breakfast at NABJ-Indy:

Come to the annual J-alumni meeting; learn about executive leadership opportunity

The annual Black Alumni Network [Columbia University Journalism] Breakfast at NABJ-Indianapolis is 8 to 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19 at the Marriott Downtown hotel Circle City Bar and Grille.

Breakfast is on your own. For those who are feeling generous, treat a recent graduate to breakfast.

To RSVP, call 800-268-4338 or send e-mail to wdawkins4bj@aol.com

J-school professor Arlene Morgan plans to be there to encourage alumni to apply for The Punch Sulzberger News Media Executive Leadership program. About two dozen media executives are to be selected in January 2007 for this 12- to 15-month opportunity. Morgan, co-editor of "The Authentic Voice: The Best Reporting on Race and Ethnicity," is also expected to discuss the forthcoming book.

The breakfast meeting agenda includes an update on fund-raising progress of the BAN scholarship endowment ["BAN scholarship among 45 J-school supporters; time to make an enduring gift," June issue].

Authors showcase



"Writing Our Family Stories: Mothers, Daughters, Fathers, Sons," kicks off the 4th annual National Association of Black Journalists *Authors Showcase* in Indianapolis Aug. 17-19. June Cross, a J-school professor and author of "Secret Daughter: A Mixed Race Daughter and the Mother Who Gave Her Away," is among the panelists. [Photo: pbs.org] A'Lelia Bundles, '76 ["On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker"], will moderate the 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday event. On Saturday, Wayne Dawkins, '80, ["The NABJ Story"], will moderate the "Independent Publishing" panel from 9 a.m. to 10:30.

Visit www.nabj.org/conventions/2006/speialevents/showcase

NABJ news: Pre-convention Internet activity at fever pitch



When the sale of Knight Ridder to McClatchy was completed in June, NABJ President Bryan Monroe [Photo: highschooljournalism.org] became a former San Jose-based KR news executive. Last month, Johnson Publishing Co. announced the hiring of Monroe as editor of Ebony and Jet magazines ... After the last two years as a stand-alone autumn event in Washington, D.C., the awards program returns this month as part of the convention. Las fall's gala lost \$61,840 said association officials and they complained the event was an unexpected budget buster. At conventions, the challenge over the years has been to keep the ceremony on schedule, yet give award winners their due and not rush them off stage ... In the final weeks before the convention, listserv activity has been at a fever pitch.

Members have used the online message board to search for videographers to cover events in Indianapolis, to successfully sell a registration because of a family crisis, to search for hotel roommates, and to inquire about affordable ground transportation from the airport to the hotels.

**Fellowship winner to report on health
of relocated Hurricane Katrina survivors, 3**

'Inconvenient Truth' a welcome interruption

Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," moved me to action. First, I remembered to go to church an hour early and discuss the documentary about global warming with 20 other congregation members.

The next day I e-mailed Farm Fresh, a local supermarket chain, and recommended the stores post signs that they sell 10-ride bus transit fare cards at the courtesy counter. Even with record high gas prices, here in Southeast Virginia, it seems people are driving more and stubbornly resisting



Wayne Dawkins/Commentary mass transit, even though the system, skeletal by New York, or Washington, D.C. standards, is greatly improved over the last five years.

Furthermore, I want to follow up on a carbon-reducing idea made at the church meeting: Buy high-priced but longer-lasting compact fluorescent bulbs and save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

"An Inconvenient Truth" showcased Gore's talents as a former newspaperman, and apparently student who paid attention to gifted college and high school science teachers. The film was a triumph of story telling. It would have been easy to make a big snore of a film out of the complex ideas. Yet Gore kept the film light, for example using "The Simpsons" animator to depict carbon dioxide as a gang of toughs mugging the earth.

Gore looked like a failed presidential candidate who made good use of his down time. He could be more useful as an environmental crusader.

The former vice president has been a lightning rod. Partisan critics mocked "An Inconvenient Truth" as more Chicken Little-the-sky-is-falling fear mongering, and locally some readers were incensed by a wire service account that said an

overwhelming majority of scientists polled said that Gore interpreted the environmental science accurately in his general-interest film.

It is frustrating to live in a time when many people want to deny the obvious. The earth's climate is changing dangerously because of human behavior. Skeptics correctly suggest that temperature change is cyclical, so the global warming cries for several decades might be hot air.

Gore's film had a simple answer for that. Yes, in alternating years, the earth's annual temperature rises then dips because most vegetation is in the northern Hemisphere and with each summer that half of the planet experiences record temperatures. When the less vegetated southern Hemisphere has its summer it produces less man-made carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases. Yet the average earth temperature is zigzagging upward at a record pace. The graphic shown in the film was not hard to understand.

Neither were the pictures of polar ice caps melting into the sea.

It is frustrating that opinion shapers like economic columnist Robert Samuelson replied that there is nothing we can do to manage global warming. A letter writer wisecracked that we can reduce carbon dioxide if we all hold our breaths.

Nonsense.

A memorable line near the end of "An Inconvenient Truth" recalled that in the early 1990s, industry leaders and consumers acknowledged scientists' warning that we poked dangerous holes in the ozone layer because of excess use of fluorocarbons from aerosol sprays and refrigerator coolants.

We had the will to create non-aerosol products then use them. The holes in the ozone layer have closed. That scientific crisis seemed to be a harder sell than global warming that is melting ice caps and giving our planet violent mood swings.

Continued on page 3

'Inconvenient Truth'/Continued

If you're a conservative skeptic, would pocketbook issues get your attention? During the Independence Holiday week when I saw the movie, there were media reports that Western U.S. wildfires were linked to temperature change. On the CBS evening news that week, there was a report that insurance companies in Florida canceled thousands of homeowner policies because over the hurricane seasons are longer, more destructive, and costlier.

Is it unreasonable to conclude that the earth's climate is changing?

An environmental science professor in my congregation said that the earth was going to continue to overheat, yet that did not mean the end of the world. The earth will adapt to the way humans alter the climate. The question to 6 billion inhabitants is will we be OK with more violent storm seasons and the probability of major coastal cities under water? New York and Miami, are you listening?

It is time to stop making excuses, modify our behavior and *reduce the increase* in carbon dioxide production. Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" was a welcome interruption.

J-'82 alum wins health journalism fellowship; to report on Katrina survivors

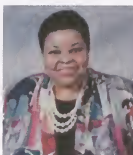
David J. Dent, '82, was among 10 winners of Rosalyn Carter fellowships for mental health journalism, the Atlanta-based center announced July 7. Dent's topic is writing about the mental health challenges that many Hurricane Katrina survivors encountered while moving to and forging new lives in the West.

Dent and eight domestic fellows will receive \$10,000 each for their project. The remaining two fellows – both South Africans – will receive comparable stipends. Visit www.cartercenter.org/aboutus/aboutus.htm

In 2000, Dent wrote "In Search of Black America: Discovering the African-American Dream," [Simon & Schuster] <http://journalism.nyu.edu/faculty/dent.html>

Phyl Garland's unabashed love of NYC and her craft

Thank you for the article about Phyl Garland in the July edition of the Black Alumni Network newsletter.



I last saw Phyl about six years ago when she attended my book signing party. I was so thrilled that she'd come – I hadn't seen her since graduating in '87, although we exchanged a phone call or two. After reading the article, I called her right away at the number provided. Her voice sounded strong, but she couldn't hear me so I'll call again and I will visit her.

I remember Phyl's Cultural Affairs Reporting class clearly, her tough criticism and constant encouragement. She was one of only two professors who invited us to her home.

Phyllis T. Garland

She was unabashed in sharing her love of New York, of her neighborhood, and [civilrightsandthepress.syr.edu] of her chosen profession. She was kind and generous enough to also share her belief in me at a time when I wasn't at all certain of my own capabilities. I now have a chance to see Phyl and tell her how grateful I am to her.

Caroline Clarke (Graves), J-'87
New York

Garland is at Calvary Hospice Unit, 309, the Lutheran Hospital Center in Brooklyn. Call 718-630-6649.

Jobline

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel seeks an assistant city editor to lead the night operations of the busy, competitive Palm Beach County offices. The successful applicant will have a track record of meeting and beating the competition. This editor supervises the night police reporter and other reporters working into the evening as news dictates. This editor also is a key liaison to the Sun-Sentinel's broadcast and print media news partners. Send a resume, a cover letter and 8-10 samples of your work to Kathy Pellegrino, Recruitment Editor, South Florida Sun-Sentinel 200 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. The Sun-Sentinel also seeks: **A metro reporter** to cover Scripps Florida and Palm Beach County government; **business reporter** to tackle a high-profile beat covering Florida Power & Light and telecom issues; **higher education reporter** to cover higher education and the state university system, and **general assignment reporters**, one to cover northern Palm Beach County and another for South Broward County. These reporters will handle daily news stories, features and enterprise. Spanish or Creole language skills are a plus. For these positions, send a resume, cover letter and 8-10 samples of your work to Kathy Pellegrino.

The Virginian-Pilot, based in Norfolk, Va., is looking to fill several jobs. Submit your application online to the specific job code listed below [www.TheVirginianPilot.com/careers], and second, send a message with your resume and a cover letter attached to denise.bridges@pilotonline.com. The openings: **Artist** [job code 571]: provide charts, maps, diagrams and illustrative elements for the news sections; **assistant design team leader** [job code 371]: provide support to the presentation team and mentor and supervise a team of inside-page designers; **copy editor** [job code 484]: edit stories, write headlines and captions, proof pages, maps and graphics, and **features editor** [job code 370]. ... Applications are invited for a Sept. 28-29 training seminar in Geneva on **international humanitarian law** for journalists, organized by the Crimes of War Project and the University Centre for International Humanitarian Law. This training workshop will provide an introduction to the essential elements of the law and look at the way they apply in real-world conflicts. No previous knowledge of the subject is necessary. Applications for the training seminar, including full CV's and a statement explaining the candidate's interest, should be sent by Aug. 15 to: Ms. Pauline Cernaix, University Centre for International Humanitarian Law. Telephone: +41 22 379 85 71. E-mail: pauline.cernaix@cudih.org Applicants will be notified by Aug. 31.

The **Black Alumni Network** of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism was founded in May 1980 and since July the group has published a monthly newsletter. The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. We publish job changes and moves, news about books and films published or produced by alumni, and family milestones. And of course we keep alumni connected to news from the Columbia GSJ. Log on to our Web site at www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/services/ban/ or see our link on the home page of www.blackjournalist.com Wayne J. Dawkins – **editor**, Betty Winston Baye, Kissette Bundy, Angela Chatman, Cheryl Devall, Dan Holly, Keith Rushing, **contributing editors** E-mail tips, comments, suggestions to wdawk69643@aol.com Or call 800-268-4338

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Alumni

Matchmakers, page 4

Network Newsletter / Our 26th year / October 2006 / Vol. 26, No. 10

Columbia J-alumni give \$425 K for student financial aid . . .

. . . and BA Network endowment drive within 43 percent of goal

The Columbia University Journalism Alumni Fund raised \$425,000 this year for financial aid to support future industry leaders.

The fund drive was a record effort, said alumni leaders **Tom Bettag**, '67 [Discovery Networks], **Amy Entelis**, '79 [ABC News], **Howard Fineman**, '73 [Newsweek], **Keith Goggin**, '91 [STR Trading Partners LLC], and **Rena Pederson**, '70 [American College of Education], in a thank-you postcard to two dozen class agents who canvassed classmates for support [postcard image at left].



Last spring **Dani McClain**, the first **Black Alumni Network** scholar, was among the 2006 graduates. A drive is under way to raise \$100,000 in order to permanently endow the BA Network scholarship.

As of Sept. 19, \$56,855 in cash and pledges were in the fund, explained Amanda Wilson of J-school alumni office. The difference was \$43,145. Supporters have less than three years to raise the balance.

Now, make an enduring gift and permanently establish the BAN scholarship. Call Amanda Wilson, 212-854-5263, or message aw2186@columbia.edu.

COMING NEXT MONTH: Meet this year's Black Alumni Network scholar.

What do you think? Tell us:

Twenty alumni and friends proposed naming the BA Network endowment effort in honor of Professor Emeritus **Phyllis T. Garland**. She is cherished as a passionate teacher of performing arts reporting and cultural criticism for three decades.

Garland has cancer and is in hospice care in Brooklyn.

WHAT DO YOU THINK of renaming the endowment effort in honor of Phyl Garland?

Send feedback to wdawkins4bj@aol.com. Or leave a brief voicemail message at 800-268-4338.

Alumna recalls professor's influence [page 4]

Milestone season for mother, daughter

This is a milestone season for two women in my life. At this writing, Iris Carmen McFarquhar Dawkins, my mom, is scheduled to reach age 85.

Two weeks before her 80th birthday, on Sept. 11, 2001, mom fled with co-workers from an office building only blocks from the first World Trade Center tower battered by a hijacked jetliner.



Mom was partially blind. Still, she walked at least five miles from lower Manhattan to her home in Brooklyn. On Sept. 27, four generations of Dawkins and McFarquhar clans surprised "Moma D" with an 80th birthday celebration on

Wayne Dawkins/Commentary Long Island.

Maybe 9/11 traumatized mom. Or maybe the unusually cold winter of 2003 got to her. Or just getting older cramped Mom's usual outgoing attitude. Shortly after that landmark birthday, she shut herself in the Crown Heights apartment behind a dozen ice-glazed brownstone steps.

By spring, I got a tip that mom probably had dementia. When she ventured outside, one of mom's co-workers explained, she got lost, forgetful and often confused.

By summer, Moma D's sons came to Brooklyn from Virginia, California and Long Island to intervene.

Her doctor confirmed she had severe memory loss. That's when we moved mom out of her apartment and settled her in an assisted living facility in Hollywood, Fla.

Mom remains physically strong. She loves her walks in the Florida sun, and thank God, she still recognizes her family when we visit or call.

But her short-term memory is shot. A phone call from Virginia to Florida deteriorates within 30 seconds. Mom's dementia betrays her.

We sons are experiencing the so-called "long goodbye" other baby boomers are facing with their elderly parents.

Nevertheless, the journalist in me is grateful. Over the years, I've recorded many conversations with Mom about our family history. Of course there's always more that I could have done. But I'm lucky to have heard the stories she's shared, and the leads that point me to more writing. Thanks for those memories, mom, and happy birthday!

ON A HOT AUGUST afternoon near Nags Head, N.C., I sat in the passenger seat of my wife's Saturn. A young woman was letting me ride with her to the mall.

When I looked over at this woman, I struggled to recognize her. She is my daughter, Carmen Jamila Dawkins, just a week into age 18.

Carmen has been driving for more than a year, but this was the first time she'd chauffeured me around the barrier island. It felt like an out-of-body experience. I was used to the little girl who wanted to play for hours in the sand and sea, not to the young woman who wanted to spend her free hours shopping.

As with my mom, this is a milestone season for my daughter.

After a few days, our family interrupted its beach vacation so we could move Carmen into her dorm for her freshman year at Virginia Wesleyan College.

Carmen phones home about every other day. She says she's getting along with her roommate from Pennsylvania, and she's made some new friends on campus. Carmen was pleased the other day to get board games and a scrapbook I'd mailed per her request.

I look forward to visiting Carmen this month at her new campus home.

Soon, I'll need to get to Florida to see mom again.

People



Linda Prout, '81, will direct broadcast media introduction at the new City University Graduate School of Journalism in New York, reported its journal *Inside Story*. Prout worked as a writer and producer for PBS and Bravo network before joining City College as director of its journalism program, said the account [Photo via ccny.edu].

Cheryl Devall, '82, sent us the link to KPCC-FM 89.3's Hurricane Katrina anniversary coverage. "I didn't report it," Devall explained, "but I coordinated and edited the next couple of days' stories and our webmaster has created a beautiful site for everything. This event has messed with my head and emotions more than any news story since the 1992 LA riots, so it was good to channel some of that energy into this labor of the heart. While I fervently wish this event and its aftermath had never happened, I hope this body of work will help remind people the story hasn't gone away." Visit www.scp.org/features/2006/katrina_anniversary/index.html

Alumna recalls Phyl Garland's influence/ Letter to the editor

I have been so out of touch with much of what's going on with the J-School, that I am ashamed to say that I was not aware of Prof. Phyl Garland's condition.



Actually, the bit of information that I receive regarding the school is what I glean from the alumni newsletter, which I don't always have time to read. However, I was able to pick up on the front-page story concerning Prof. Garland (July BA Newsletter), and it

absolutely pricked my heart.

She was such a major part of my experience at Columbia, and I could never forget her.

Faith Smalls, '93

Bronx, N.Y.

ABOVE: Cover of Garland's 1969 book on black music, which is out of print [Image obtained from the Peabody Special Collection at Hampton University Harvey Library.]

Phyllis Garland is being cared for at Calvary Hospice Unit 309 at the Lutheran Hospital Center, 150 55th St., Brooklyn, NY 11220. The telephone number is 718-630-6649. Visiting is permitted 24 hours.

I had considered contacting her several times over the last few years, but was remiss in doing so. I am toward the end of completing a doctoral program through the University of Phoenix, so that has taken up a great deal of my time. I thank God that it will be over in a few months, and I can get back on track with pursuing the career in writing that I initially desired.

I have been involved with technical writing, but over the last couple of years, I did a lot of soul searching and knew that I would return to my initial focus of writing health articles.

I was wondering if there was contact information for Garland? I certainly want to respect her privacy and don't mean to bother her, but I would really love to call her or even visit her, if that's possible.

Please let me know if you can provide any information, about our dear friend, Professor Garland.

Jobline

The *Food Network* [Scripps] is looking for people who are passionate about food and have real culinary skill to apply to become **The Next Food Network Star**. Chefs and cooks of all kinds are encouraged to apply right now by sending in a three-minute audition tape with a pitch for why they should be The Next Food Network Star. Go to www.FoodNetwork.com and download contest rules and applications. The deadline is Oct. 27 [Item sent by an eagle-eyed BA Network reader]

The Virginian-Pilot, a 200,000-circulation daily serving southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina, is seeking a **copy desk chief**. This person will be responsible for safeguarding accuracy, coaching and developing copy editors, and enforcing style; copy editing stories that appear in *The Pilot*; writing headlines and captions; and proofing pages, maps and graphics. As a team leader, this person is also a hiring manager. Hours: 4 p.m. to midnight five days a week To apply for this job, visit www.thevirginianpilot.com/careers and enter job code 740. Sorry, no e-mail resumes. Sent by Denise Bridges, director of newsroom recruitment & staff development, The Virginian-Pilot.

J-school mentor match program

More than 120 new Columbia J-school students have been matched with alumni mentors from metropolitan New York and also around the nation and globe.



Because of the Internet and cellular phones, it was possible to match students with alumni in California, Canada, Baghdad and Beijing.

Want to assist the next class of outstanding journalism and media leaders? Learn more about the mentor program by visiting www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/associations/association/mentor/mentor.asp

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Subscriptions:
\$25 one year
\$40 two years

A Ford for the future: Meet the 2nd BA Network Scholarship winner

Student awarded \$5,000; alumni continue to push for endowment

Sabrina Ford, a student in the 2006-07 class at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, is this year's winner of the Black Alumni Network scholarship.

Ford is a California native who holds a B.A. in Journalism from San Francisco State University. As a student, she became active in the Bay Area Black Journalists Association, first as student representative and later as secretary. Ford has been a member of the National Association of Black Journalists since 2004, attending both that year's UNITY Convention in Washington, D.C. and the 2005 NABJ 30th anniversary convention in Atlanta.

Have you pledged your support?

Ford was eager to gain journalism experience before graduation and completed four internships including a summer position with the production staff of the Tavis Smiley Show on NPR and a six-month internship assisting the managing editor at XLR8R magazine. www.xlr8r.com

Continued on page 3

Peer review: Nominate outstanding Columbia J-alumni

The Columbia Journalism School Alumni Awards are highly prized because they represent recognition of excellence by one's professional peers. The awards are given to alumni of the Graduate School of Journalism for a distinguished journalism career in any medium, for an outstanding single accomplishment in journalism, for notable contributions to journalism education, or for achievement in related fields. The awards are given annually at the Alumni Association's spring meeting.



Nominate living alumni who currently are working in journalism, journalism education or related fields and who merit the award. Nominations can be made by mail or electronically. A form can be found at: www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/associations/

The Alumni Association Executive Committee selects the award recipients.

The committee requires that nominators provide sufficient information about the nominee's achievements and include supporting materials such as clips of stories, books or tapes.

The deadline for submissions is Dec. 1.

Among more than 160 previous winners are Kenneth Best, '67; Ernest Boynton, '71; Wayne Dawkins, '80; Dorothy Gilliam, '61; Vincent Harding, '53; Neil Henry, '78, and Reginald Stuart, '71.

Anti-gay marriage ballot question can't see straight, so stop it

Advocates say voting "yes" to a Nov. 7 ballot question will protect traditional marriage in Virginia between men and women. Yet that badly written proposal threatens to return Virginia to conditions that echo ugly days of racial and sexual oppression.



The hideous Marshall/Newman Amendment – Ballot Question No. 1 – to the Virginia Bill of Rights should be defeated.

Why? Because of this nettlesome second paragraph:

Wayne Dawkins/Commentary

This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities or effects of marriage.

The first paragraph goes this way:

That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions.

The opening is straightforward, and personally, I agree with it. "Marriage" is for heterosexuals. I get queasy when the "M" word is applied to homosexuals, however I support civil unions of same-sex partners, which is marriage except in name.

Paragraph two of the November ballot question gives the legal system broad powers to ban civil unions between gay and lesbian couples, and also deny them health benefits and property rights.

There's more. The wording of the ballots also strips rights of *heterosexual* couples who are not married, but living together.

Jason Robinson, an organizer for The Commonwealth Coalition that was working to defeat the ballot question, told more than 100 members of my church that the proposal will have harmful, unintended consequences.

If a man is beating a woman, but they are living together and not married, the woman will not have standing to go get a restraining order, Robinson said in response to a congregation member's question. There are 60,000 incidents of domestic violence annually in Virginia, he said. Changing the state Bill of Rights could have fatal results.

Second, let's examine commerce. Virginia's booming high-tech economy has mega employers America Online, Nextel, and Northrop Grumman. These companies provide health insurance to same-sex partners, Robinson reminded us. What if these companies withdraw or reduce its operations because of a hostile environment created by this ballot question that could become law? Are so-called Religious Right advocates prepared to make up the billions of dollars in lost revenue?

Third, is this ballot question even necessary? Virginia already has a 31-year-old law that bans gay or lesbian marriage. Ballot advocates insist another layer is necessary in order to constrict liberal judges who might legislate from the bench.

Continued on next page

Dawkins Commentary/Continued

OK, who selects the judges? Answer, the Virginia General Assembly, which is overwhelmingly conservative and Republican and has a lock on both houses of the legislature.

Apparently, the sponsors of the ballot question are engaged in political mischief.

The Democratic governor of Virginia said he is against the proposal however the Republican Attorney General declared that the ballot question is legally sound. Ballot Question No. 1 is morally bankrupt.

The proposal echoes the oppressiveness of Virginia laws that forbade interracial marriage until the U.S. Supreme Court broke the barrier in the late 1960s.

The ballot question echoes the bureaucratic genocide waged against Native Americas during the Jim Crow days. Yes, in the land of Pocahontas and Powhatan, Indian tribes are not recognized in Virginia, which on the eve of the 400th anniversary of English landing at Jamestown is outrageous.

Approval of Ballot Question No. 1 in Virginia on Nov. 7 would be a 21st century disgrace. The proposed law stands to harm gays and straights by abridging their rights.

The right answer to Ballot Question No. 1 is "no."

Visit www.votenova.org

Sabrina Ford, scholarship winner/Continued from front page

Since completing an internship with Wired magazine in January, Ford has free-lanced for various magazines and Web sites, including blackenterprise.com. She hopes to go on to work in magazines after graduation, said Amanda Wilson of the J-school development office.

Ford will receive \$5,000 to underwrite her tuition and expenses at the J-School. The inaugural BA Network scholarship winner was Dani McClain, who graduated last spring. McClain was covering health issues for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. Funds are available to underwrite students for at least three years. BA Network readers are now challenged to raise \$43,000 within three years in order to endow the Black Alumni Network Scholarship. Have you pledged your support?

Send your contribution to the J-School, 2950 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10027, attention Amanda Wilson, and note that the gift is for the Black Alumni Network Scholarship in the lower of the check.

Should we name the scholarship? Last month we asked readers to state whether the projected endowed scholarship be named after Phyllis T. Garland and/or Luther P. Jackson Jr. Eight readers replied. Five favored Garland, two endorsed Jackson, and one reader said name the endowed scholarship for Garland and Jackson. At NABJ-Indianapolis in August, about 20 people made a case for a Phyl Garland endowed scholarship. Continue state your preference by sending e-mail to wjdwkins4bj@aol.com

Jobline

The *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* seeks a **Design Director** to oversee the design of news, features and sports, working closely with the design leaders in each of those areas. The ideal candidate will be driven to excellence, possess proven newsroom management skills and will be a generous mentor. The Sun-Sentinel is undergoing a redesign so the new director will also inherit a new canvas on which to drive forward the new vision of the paper. Send inquiries, resumes and samples (NPD links) to: Tim Frank, DME for Visuals/Creative Director, South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 200 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, tgfrank@sun-sentinel.com.

People



Sheryl Hilliard-Tucker, '82, will be a member of the "What Women Want?" Fall J-school Alumni Association forum Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 116th and Broadway. The evening event will focus on American women in the press. [Photo: targetmarketnews.com]



Donald Scott, '90, brought us up to date on his work: "I've written a very nice spread (article) for England's National Archives magazine, 'Ancestors,' that's appearing now (October) throughout the United Kingdom, concerning abolitionist blacks, including Frederick Douglass and Henry "Box" Brown, as well as other African-Americans who migrated to the England during the 1800s to escape slavery and speak out against that 'peculiar institution.'"

Furthermore, I've completed five biographies for professors Henry Louis Gates' and Evelyn Higginbotham's African-American National Biography book and online project that will be published in 2008 by Oxford University Press. I wrote about the likes of New York Times columnist and editorial-board member Brent Staples, as well as 19th-century black activist and scholar Octavius Catto who was assassinated by a white bigot. I also wrote about my father-in-law, the first African-American to graduate in 1949 from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. [Photo: afrigenes.com]

Angela Chatman, '77, a 21-year veteran of the Cleveland Plain Dealer who was twice president of the Cleveland chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, took the paper's buyout offer, Chatman told us late last month. She was a general assignment reporter who specialized in housing coverage. Chatman previously worked in the business section and in the home and garden section, where she also covered real estate. She intends to relocate and try to remain in the journalism business. [Photo: www.jaws.org]



Gayle Williams, '86, writes a parenting blog for The Journal News of Westchester and Rockland counties, N.Y., at <http://parentsplace.lohudblogs.com/>

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Phyllis T. Garland [1935-2006]: 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot ...'

By Evelyn C. White

BRITISH COLUMBIA, Canada — I picture her kickin' it with Dizzy, Ella, Billie, Luther Vandross and Ray Charles. To say nothing of dishing the daily news with the late Ed Bradley. I'm talking about Phyllis T. Garland, Columbia J-School professor emerita and author of "The Sound of Soul" who died on Nov. 8 of cancer. She was 71.



Phyllis T. Garland

A memorial service featuring video clips of Phyl [as she was fondly known], a gospel singer and recordings by Miles Davis was held for the pioneering journalist on Nov. 18 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in her native McKeesport, Pa. "About a hundred people attended," said Ida Waters Brown, a lifelong friend of Phyl who helped organize the lively gathering. "People who arrived as strangers left as friends. There was a very nice atmosphere. You know Phyl, she was always bringing folks together. She kept things upbeat to the very end."

A 1957 graduate of Northwestern University, Phyl began her trailblazing career at The Pittsburgh Courier. Her byline later graced numerous publications including Stereo Review for which, showcasing Phyl's love of music, she was a contributing editor for 20 years. Prior to her arrival at Columbia, Phyl was the New York editor for Ebony magazine.

Los Angeles Times feature writer Gayle Pollard-Terry, '73, recalled her role in Phyl's appointment to the J-school where, as the first woman to receive tenure, she taught for more than 30 years. Beloved for her devotion to students and hip, down-home personality, Phyl was also a discerning Master's Project adviser and served as the administrator of the National Arts Journalism Program at Columbia.



"In the spring of 1973, I complained about the lack of black women professors at the school," noted Pollard-Terry in the online J-school tribute page for Phyl. "The year before, Phyl had swept through a Women-in-Communications conference in New York, identified the three black student attendees and invited us to her home for dinner. She regaled us with stories of her career and encouraged our aspirations. ... I told the dean about her. The rest is history."

A senior editor at Jet magazine and adjunct journalism professor at Northwestern University, Clarence Waldron, '80, reflected on Phyl's trademark generosity: "She gave so much of her time, talent and knowledge in the classroom. She wanted to make sure that we were the best journalists that we could be. She set high standards for her students and she knew how to push us to reach those standards."

Continued on page 3

Can 'most diverse' U.S. city also be the national conscience?

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Ronald Dellums said he is determined to show by example that all politics are local. The 28-year veteran Congressman, an international leader, is the new mayor-elect of Oakland.

Dellums told 30 black columnists here Nov. 12 that cities must lead America in governing instead of following top-down edicts from Washington.



Wayne Dawkins/Dispatch voice and change the

"[U.S. Rep.] Charlie Rangel [D-N.Y.] told me, 'Welcome to the bottom of the political food chain,'" Dellums explained. "I said mayors can be at the top of the food chain. You live and die in the cities of America. Mayors need to speak out, speak with one

conversation in Washington, whether the conversation is health care, schools or the economy. Mayors must talk in a collaborative way."

Dellums agreed that the midterm Congressional elections that placed Democrats in control of the House and Senate meant that "Congress is now set up to check the executive branch.

"The election," he added, "was about Iraq."

The other election issue, Dellums said, was Hurricane Katrina. Its devastation connects to an urgent need to revive effective local governing.

He said: "Katrina's not being talked about by many people [pundits]. The federal response was inept, inadequate, insincere and lacking in compassion. We gave a third world response.

"Katrina was a metaphor for everything that's wrong in urban America.

"Every city in America is a potential Katrina. We have the same problems, such as needs for universal health care and reduction of poverty.

"Local government is not about potholes and street signs. Local government is about where people live and die."

The former chairman of the House Arms Services Committee said so-called experts and pundits offer narrow definitions of local government's responsibilities.

Local governing, Dellums said, "is about the human condition."

The mayor-elect said people of color are 67 percent of the population in his city of 408,000 people — 31 percent are black. Oakland's children speak up to 89 languages in the public schools. That variety makes Oakland "probably the most diverse city in America," he said, adding, "Oakland is not New York, (Chicago) or Detroit. It's big enough to be significant, but small enough to get its arms around problems."

Dellums said he told constituents, "Let's have the audacity to see ourselves as a model city. I want Oakland to become a leader in this nation."

In response to one journalist's request to diagnose Oakland's health, Dellums called his city "a vibrant place."

Last year, Morgan Quitno Corp. ranked the 44th largest American city the 8th most dangerous in the country — after Cleveland, Birmingham, Ala., Camden, N.J., Compton, Calif., Flint, Mich., Detroit and St. Louis.

Continued on page 4

Phyl Garland/Continued from front page

"When she retired from Columbia two years ago, she sent me a box of her teaching materials. ... She gave me the syllabus for each of her classes and some of the books she used including "The Craft of Interviewing" by John Brady, "Writing About Literature and Film" by Margaret B. Bryan and Boyd H. Davis; and of course, "The Elements of Style" by William Strunk and E.B. White.

"As a student in her Cultural Affairs class, I used to love to hear her stories about the interviews she did with Josephine Baker and Duke Ellington for *Ebony*. She inspired me right then and there."

Hofstra University journalism professor E.R. Shipp, '79, shared a special bond with Phyl. Like many, Shipp was buoyed, as a student, by Phyl's support. As a J-school faculty member in the 1990s, she also experienced Phyl as a hard-working colleague who knew how to boogie. After all, we're talking about a woman who, as lead singer, fronted an all-female jazz band at her own retirement party.

Witnesses said the sisters rocked the World Room.

"Phyl's influence was not limited to blacks," Shipp observed in the tribute page. "She reached out to and listened to and steered – sometimes gently, sometimes not – students of color, women, gays and lesbians and the artsy-fartsy types ... When I joined the faculty ... she was so welcoming. ... Phyl and I had something in common beyond journalism: We liked to eat and, to eat well, we liked to cook. She could throw down! ... She *knew* jazz and was one of the first journalists to put the virtuoso Wynton Marsalis on the national radar screen in a piece for *Ebony* magazine."



Addie Rimmer

Also writing on the tribute page, Columbia J-school professor Addie Rimmer, '78, said: "Of the many things I treasure about her was her amazing ability to slow you down long enough to see what was so obvious that you missed it because you were busy looking for something else. As a teacher and editor, she helped you synthesize stories from the masses of notes that filled your notebook.

"She listened. She asked questions. She listened and soon you heard the story you wanted to tell."

As for my most cherished Phyl story, I've written previously, in these pages, about how she introduced me to Leontyne Price. The unforgettable encounter was the highlight of a difficult year for me at Columbia.

So, I'm listening, as I type, to the opera singer as her voice soars to the heavens [and hence to Phyl] on "The Lord's Prayer" from her 1980 "My Favorite Hymns" release.

I know the Black Alumni Network family joins me in offering a soulful farewell to Phyllis T. Garland – a gifted reporter, educator and sister friend.

Let the church say "Amen."

A Columbia Journalism School memorial service for Phyl is planned for the spring. Additional tributes can be found at <http://deanstudents.blogsome.com/category/phyllis-garland/>

The writer is a 1985 Columbia University journalism graduate

Dawkins /Continued from page 2

Dellums, 71, said he maintains high expectations and high hopes for his city. "I told young people in Oakland I'm too damn old to be afraid, and this job (mayor-elect) is not a career move. I'm here to be your instrument. Use me."

Dellums spoke at the opening session of the annual William Monroe Trotter Group meeting, a society of black newspaper columnists. Trotter founders include J-alumni Betty Winston Baye and Dawkins.

Read the work of 23 writers in the new book, "Black Voices in Commentary: The Trotter Group" [August Press, \$15.95, ISBN 0-9635720-9-1]. Also read their work at www.trottergroup.com

Hurry: Nominate outstanding Columbia J-alumni by Dec. 1

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